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MANIPUR TO MUMBAI

Rahul's next yatra to begin on January 14

NEWS » PAGE 12

JUSTICE KAUL INTERVIEW

'Not our job to strengthen or weaken govt.'

NEWS » PAGE 13

AMMONIA GAS LEAK

52 admitted to hospital in Chennai

SOUTH » PAGE 9

CHILD GROWTH CHARTS

WHO standards versus India crafted

The pros and cons of home-grown metrics

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

DRIVING FORCE

Elgar's unbeaten ton puts SA in control

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Buses still stop at Kempapura

BENGALURU
Despite the Bengaluru Traffic Police orders, many private and KSRTC buses continue to stop near the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus stop in Kempapura on Ballari Road, especially in the night hours.
» Page 2

Action sought against Yatnal

BENGALURU
The newly constituted BJP State office-bearers team is learnt to have sought action against disgruntled leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal for his allegations against the erstwhile BJP regime led by B.S. Yediyurappa. » Page 6

Rajnath meets kin of dead civilians, promises justice

Defence Minister directs all ranks in J&K to undertake operations based on hard intelligence, asks commanders to have zero tolerance for violation of established standard operating procedures

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Duty calls: Soldiers are our protectors, Rajnath Singh said during an interaction with Army personnel in Rajouri on Wednesday. PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on a tour of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday in the wake of the militant attack that killed four soldiers at Dera Ki Gali in Poonch on December 21 and subsequent death of three civilians due to alleged torture by the Army, met the families of the victims at Topa Peer village of Bufliaz and assured them of an "expeditious investigation into the incident, culminating in deliverance of justice".

Addressing troops in Rajouri, he directed them to win the hearts of the people while fighting terrorists. "We will eradicate terrorism. The Indian Army is not an ordinary Army. The soldiers are our protectors. It is their duty not only to safeguard national interests but also to win the hearts of the people," he said.

Terming the deaths "unfortunate", Mr. Singh directed all ranks to undertake operations based on hard intelligence, in accordance with established procedures aided by niche technology. "All commanders should have zero tolerance for violations of the well-established standard operating procedures," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
UNJUST AND UNWISE
» PAGE 10

Union govt. bans Muslim League J&K faction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday declared the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) an "unlawful association" under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for five years. Union Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X that the organisation is involved in secessionist activities in J&K.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 13

Jaishankar meets Putin, says he is confident of return of annual summits

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

On a steady footing: S. Jaishankar and Sergei Lavrov exchange documents following their talks in Moscow on Tuesday. AFP

Hailing India-Russia relations as "very steady" and "very strong", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday that he was "confident" that the annual India-Russia leadership summit, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin have skipped for two years, would be held in 2024.

"We will be glad to see our friend, Mr. Prime Minister Modi in Russia," Mr. Putin told Mr. Jaishankar at a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday evening, official news agencies reported, adding that the Russian President discussed the situation in Ukraine in some detail with the Minister.

The meeting came after discussions with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Tuesday's Inter-governmental Commission talks with Deputy Trade Minister Denis Manturovhi. The meetings have yielded a number of agreements on trade, connectivity, nuclear energy, military technology, and arms supplies.

Both sides say the visit has been marked by strong assertions on the importance of the bilateral relationship in a year where ties appeared to flag. "India-Russia relations remain very steady, remain very strong, they are based on our strategic convergence, on our geopolitical interests, and because they are mutually beneficial," Mr. Jaishankar said, addressing the media after his talks with Mr. Lavrov.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Delhi Police trying to trace the source of 'explosive' used near Israel Embassy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Forensic officials, in the presence of NSG commandos, search the embassy premises on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Delhi Police have scanned CCTV cameras and investigated the "end-to-end encrypted calls" of all active mobile-phone numbers around Prithviraj Road here as part of the investigation into the low-intensity blast near the Israeli Embassy on Tuesday evening.

However, they have not been able to establish the source of the explosive; nor have they recovered any explosive material from the garden space where the blast occurred, the police said on Wednesday.

A guard at the Central Hindi Training Institute, adjacent to the embassy, reportedly heard a loud noise at the location on Tuesday evening. As dog squads and crime teams continued to search the area, police officers said that their investigation had intensified after two people were seen on CCTV footage, roaming around the area before the blast. However, they have not been identified and it has not yet been ascertained if they are suspects, an officer said.

A letter addressed to the Israeli Ambassador which was found at the spot on Tuesday evening, along with a flag, has been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory to check for fingerprints, police sources said. The one-page typewritten letter in English contained "abusive" words, and mentions Zionists, Palestine, and Gaza. The police suspect that the letter is related to an organisation called Sir Allah Resistance, the sources said.

Israel's Deputy Chief of Mission Ohad Nakash Kaynar said that the blast took place in the embassy's proximity after 5 p.m. "All the diplomats and workers are safe, security teams are working in full cooperation with local security and the matter is being investigated," he said.

Apart from CCTV footage, the police are tracing end-to-end encrypted calls with the dump data of numbers active around the spot, an officer said. "Police will also communicate with social media applications to seek help with further investigation, depending on the probe," an officer added.

Security around the city has also been increased, with additional security forces being deployed near the border areas for law and order purposes, due to the upcoming festive season, the officer said.

"We are also checking the registration number of each vehicle that passed around the stretch along with entry and exit points of the stretch," the officer added.

Israel issues travel advisory for its citizens in India

Press Trust of India
JERUSALEM

The Israeli National Security Council has issued a travel advisory for its citizens in India, as it suspects that an explosion near the Israeli embassy in New Delhi on Tuesday was "a possible terror attack". Israeli nationals have been asked to avoid crowded places such as malls and markets and places identified as serving westerners, Jews and Israelis. They have been urged to be on alert in restaurants, hotels, and pubs and avoid displaying Israeli symbols and posting itineraries and photographs in real-time.

Protest against non-Kannada signboards turns into vandalism

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A protest rally organised by the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) against not using Kannada on signboards of commercial establishments led to vandalism across the city on Wednesday.

While the protests were the most intense on International Airport Road, disrupting traffic for hours, similar incidents were reported from several other parts, including the Central Business District.

Over 50 complaints have been registered with the city police, and over 900 activists, including T.A. Narayana Gowda, president of KRV, who led the protests, were detained.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who recently supported the implementation of the Kannada signboard rule, said the law will take its course against those who have taken law into their hands.

Multiple trade bodies, including the Retailers Association of India, have condemned the vandalism and said such acts were uncalled for, especially when the city's civic body has set a February 28, 2024, deadline for the implementation of the Kannada signboard rule.

The rule states at least 60% of the signboard should be in Kannada. The city police have drawn flak for not being able to anticipate and prevent such vandalism, from industry leaders such as T.V. Mohandas Pai.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

Hard work and perseverance the key to success for Anmol Kharb and Chirag Sen

The 16-year-old Haryanvi seems destined for glory — she is ranked No. 1 in both u-17 and u-19 in singles, and will focus on the senior section next year; new National men's singles champion Chirag's world rankings have fluctuated from being outside and inside the top 100 — his short-term goal is to enter top 50 by the end of 2024

RITU RAJ KONWAR

K. Keerthivasan

Anmol Kharb, all of 16 years of age, was on the verge of reaching her first final of the 85th Senior National badminton championships at the Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phookan Indoor Stadium in Guwahati recently.

Leading 20-17 in the second game after pocketing the first against Ashmita Chaliha of Petroleum, the tournament's second seed, Anmol was cruising along merrily.

In a sudden comeback, Asmita (24), one of the most talented players tipped to do well for India at the International level in the years to come, saved two match points.

At 20-19, the way Anmol played showed her true character. She didn't crumble under pressure or make an unforced error in the wake of a fightback from a senior pro ranked higher than her in both domestic and International levels.

Anmol retrieved a tough drop from Ashmita and soon dominated the rally pushing the second seed to both corners of the court. And when she finished the match pushing a backhand from frontcourt to the right extreme of Ashmita, who was just a mere spectator, it signalled the arrival a player of high calibre, and one who has immense potential to achieve bigger things.

"What Anmol has achieved (she then went on to beat 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma of Punjab in the final after the latter retired in the third game citing a sprain in the right thigh) is because of the sacrifices of her parents, father Devender Singh and mother Rajbala Kharb, and her hard-work. We at Sunrise Shuttlers Academy in Noida worked on her game and fitness. We improved her returns from the front. Though she did return well from backcourt, it was her returns from frontcourt that gave her some problems. We have sorted it out," said Kusumm Singh, Anmol's coach to *The Hindu*.

Kusumm saw similarities in Anmol and Saina Nehwal, who happens to be the former's idol. "Both are from Haryana and have the same fighting spirit and the hunger to excel. Anmol, I am sure, will become a star in the future. I cannot explain how happy I am to see her win the senior national crown," said an elated Kusumm.

The 16-year-old Haryanvi certainly seems destined for glory. Anmol is ranked No. 1 in both u-17 and u-19 in singles. While she emerged the u-17 Nseational champion in Hyderabad this year she came second in the u-19 Nationals in Bengaluru.

The victory in Guwahati, believes Kusumm who has been training her ward for two years, is the first step towards bigger goals.

On Tanvi retiring in the third game in the women's summit clash, Anmol said: "If she had played, it would have better. We have played lots of tournaments against each other, mostly in the final. This year alone we have played in final of more than seven tournaments. I am happy to be the Senior National champion. I wanted to thank my coach Kusumm Singh, who unfortunately couldn't be in Guwahati."

Anmol started off her journey roller skating, taking part in National level tournaments in the u-7 age category. But injuries forced her parents to shift her to badminton.

"I was into roller skating. I took up badminton when I was nine years old. I competed in National roller skating championships three times. I had lots of falls. My parents thought it would be better putting me in an indoor sport," said Anmol.

A Std. XI student, Anmol is pursuing legal studies and her father is keen on her becoming a lawyer. "Of course, my first priority is to become a top badminton player. Delhi Public School 19 has supported me really well," she said.

Anmol will be focussing on the senior section in the year 2024. "From next year, I will focus on the International Circuit in seniors, like the Challengers and the Series. My long-term target is a gold in Olympics," said Anmol, whose next important assignment is the World junior championships in 2024 in Nanjang, China.

Being a huge fan of Saina, Anmol said she is proud that she was able to emulate her idol by winning the Senior Nationals at 16 years of age. "Saina has inspired me. She's also from Haryana like me. She is one of the youngest to win the Senior Nationals [in 2006-07]. I am walking in her footsteps. Like Saina, I am aggressive and have an attacking mindset," said Anmol.

Uphill struggle

For 25-year-old Chirag Sen, the new National men's singles champion in Guwahati, it's been an uphill struggle like many of the players in the domestic circuit, and also being perennially compared to his more illustrious younger brother Lakshya Sen, hasn't helped matters either.

When he came to the Senior Nationals in Guwahati, he was not in the top 30 of the BAI National rankings as he was injured and therefore had played in very few domestic tournaments.

Chirag had to play seven rounds in a draw of 128 and with the courts playing slower, it became difficult for a player like Chirag, who prefers to attack more. But he believed in himself and stayed on course. "The draw was certainly tough for me. Most of them in my half were good rally players and the slow conditions were certainly not in my favour. Beating the third seed Kartikey Gulshan Kumar in the second round was the turning point for Chirag.

"He (Kartikey) is good in rallies and playing against him in such slow conditions was not easy. It was suitable for him. I struggled in the first game, the remaining two were close games. I am happy that I was able to win such matches. I didn't have any expectations from the tournament. I entered the court just to play well and was focused on one match at a time," he said.

For a major part of his life, Chirag has been with Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru and it has shaped his attitude to life and overall game. "I joined PBA when I was playing in the u-13 section. At PBA you get good exposure as you play with different kinds of players and it is one of the best acadamies in India for singles," he revealed.

Chirag's world rankings have fluctuated from being outside top 100 and in the top 100. "In the past six months my world rankings have touched 149 before I slowly worked up to 97," said Chirag, whose short-term goal is to enter top 50 by the end of 2024.

Chirag is supported by his father D.K. Sen, a famous coach and his brother Lakshya Sen. Chirag shares a warm relationship with his brother. And it was evident after he won the singles crown in the Senior Nationals after beating M. Tharun of Telangana, the fourth seed, in the men's final.

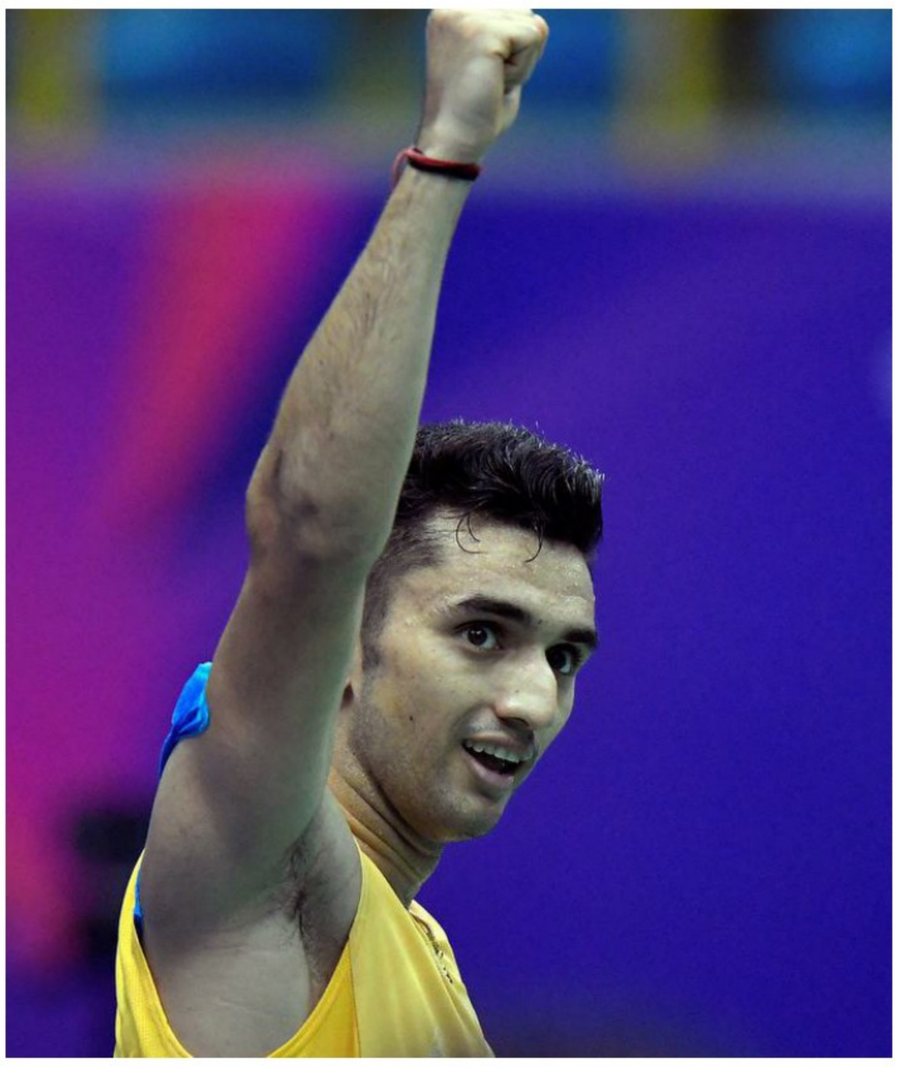
"Off court, we don't talk much about badminton. We do it only when it is required. We are together when we go for movies, for dinner."

Apart from footballer Christiano Ronaldo, Chirag's inspiration is Lakshya. "I like the way he plays and conducts himself on court," said Chirag.

For Anmol and Chirag, there are a multitude of challenges. The triumph at the Senior Nationals has certainly come at the right time to face the future with a measure of confidence

THE GIST

- Anmol started off her journey roller skating, taking part in National level tournaments in the u-7 age category. But injuries forced her parents to shift her to badminton
- The class 11 student is pursuing legal studies and her father is keen on her becoming a lawyer
- For 25-year-old Chirag Sen being perennially compared to younger brother Lakshya Sen hasn't helped matters
- Apart from footballer Christiano Ronaldo, Chirag's inspiration is Lakshya



Private and KSRTC buses continue to stop at Kempapura despite orders of traffic police

Besides the traffic problem, regular commuters also complain about lack of basic amenities near the busy bus stop

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A few weeks ago, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) put up banners on Ballari Road announcing that private buses and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses should not halt near the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus stop in Kempapura on Ballari Road

The Military Dairy Farm bus stop, or Esteem Mall bus stop as it is popularly known, is located on the National Highway, which connects the city to the airport, right down the Hebbal flyover. Despite BTP's orders, many private and KSRTC buses continue to stop here, especially in the night hours. Ballari Road also connects the city with the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The bus stop has been a pickup point for years now for private buses picking up passengers. With hundreds of buses, including BMTC buses, halting at the stop, it leads to frequent traffic snarls in the area.

A view of Military Dairy Farm bus stop or Esteem Mall bus stop, as it is popularly known, at Hebbal in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"I was happy when I saw that these banners were put up by the traffic police. But it seems to have had little to no effect on the out-of-State travelling buses halting here. The situation is so bad that the private buses stop in the bus bay in front of the bus shelter, but BMTC buses drop off passengers on the main road," said Anisha Y., a resident of Kempapura. The BTP officials said that while they have started enforcement of the prohibition of private and KSRTC buses halting at the stop, it would take more time for bus drivers to become aware of the new rules.

"We have been booking cases, and our officers are there during peak times to ensure there is no congestion there. But since it is an old practice, we are also working on creating awareness along with enforcement. It will take some time," said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Besides the traffic problems, regular commuters also complain about the lack of basic amenities near the busy bus stop. "With such a great volume of buses coming here, it is surprising that even something as basic as lights are not present at the bus stop. The bus shelter is used by hundreds of women and senior citizens, and at night, if not for the lights from buses, the area around the bus shelter is pitch dark. The bus shelter flaunts that it is maintained by the MLA development fund, but there seems to be no development," lamented Sudheendra T.R., a senior citizen from Yelahanka.

Service road

Citizens also mentioned that the service road on which the bus shelter is located is uneven and has many potholes, which makes movement difficult for pedestrians. Acknowledging the problems near the bus shelter, Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda's office placed the blame on the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). "As it is a national highway, it comes under the jurisdiction of NHAI. Anything we want to do for the bus shelter needs to be approved by them, and that has come in the way of developing the bus shelter," they said.

Chained labourer at silk factory rescued; probe launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after police and officials of the Revenue Department rescued a 24-year-old labourer who was chained at a silk factory in Ramanagara for nine days and forced to work, the Labour Department launched a probe against the factory on Wednesday. They recorded the statement of 20 workers on working conditions at the factory.

The police, on Tuesday, raided SIU Silks Factory situated in Mehaboob Nagara, Ramanagar, and rescued Mohammed Waseem, who had been chained and forced to work for nine days without a break to recover the ₹1.5 lakh loan he had taken from the owner.

Inquiries revealed that Waseem had joined the factory five months ago and had taken an advance amount of ₹1.5 lakh for a family emergency. Due to unavoidable circumstances, Waseem could not attend work for a month and later went to work nine days ago to resume duty. Enraged by this, the factory owner, Syed Isam, and supervisor, Syed Amjad, detained him illegally and chained him on the factory premises, asking him to work until he clears the dues.

Based on a tip-off, officials of the Ramanagara town police and Revenue Department raided the factory, rescued Waseem, and arrested Isam and Amjad. The duo have been charged under the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act and also under Section 343 (wrongful confinement) and 374 (unlawful compulsory labour) of IPC against them. Waseem was found chained to iron stairs situated inside the factory premises at the steaming unit. Waseem was made to sleep under the stairs, and the police found the key to the lock next to the electric panel board. The police removed the chains and sent Waseem for medical treatment as he was exhausted.

On Wednesday, officials of the Labour Department visited SIU Silks Factory, a silk reeling unit, and inspected it. The officials recorded the statement of 20 workers, including 15 male and five female workers, and found that the factory has not maintained any records.

Inspection revealed that though the factory had an official weekly holiday on Friday, they did not have any records, including employee details, salary disbursement, allowance, and other benefits entitled to workers. The officials have issued a notice to the factory owner to furnish the records, including Waseem's salary so far. A notice to Isam said that The documents mentioned below should be submitted within a week, failing which legal action will be initiated.

Ten healthcare centres in Raichur district to be upgraded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department has proposed to upgrade the infrastructure of government health centres by utilising CSR funds from private companies. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Commissioner Randeep D. on Tuesday signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with CSRBOX, a pool of CSR funds, for upgrading ten government health centres in Raichur district.

In the first phase, a grant of ₹3 core from CSRBOX has been earmarked for this. These centres include – Gunjahalli, Udmagala, Gillasugur, Balaganuru, Ballatagi, Gabburu, Masarkal, Koppara, Galaga and Ramadurga in Raichur district..

According to an official release, through CSRBOX, the CSR funds of various private companies will be utilised to develop infrastructure in approximately 200 government health centres across the State.

The estimated cost for this initiative is ₹100 crores, stated an official release.

Additionally, a sum of ₹2 crore CSR fund has been earmarked for providing free healthcare facilities to rural communities through the 'Community Healthcare Clinic' (Wellness on Wheels) by Volvo Group and Narayana Health in collaboration with the Health Department.

One more COVID-19 death, 103 new cases recorded in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With one more death reported on Wednesday, the total number of COVID-19 fatalities since December 15 touched 10.

A 53-year-old male from Mysuru, who was diagnosed with SARI and admitted to a hospital on December 25 died the same day. The patient, who was brought with fever, cough and breathlessness, also had hypertension, diabetes and ischemic heart disease. With 103 new cases, the total number of active patients touched 479 on Wednesday.

As many as 7,262 tests were done in the last 24 hours, of which 5,607 are RT-PCR tests. The test positivity rate stood at 1.41%. The number of hospitalisations shot up to 57 on Wednesday, of which 19 patients are being treated in ICU.

In Bengaluru, as many as 2,321 tests were done in the last 24 hours and 80 persons tested positive. Nearly 80% of the 479 active cases are from Bengaluru followed by Mysuru with 32. Meanwhile, an online survey on masking and socialising has found that only 3% of the 22,000 responses received indicated that one in five are complying with masking norms in their area in the country.

Conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform amid concerns of a possible JN.1 surge, the survey received 3,256 responses from Karnataka. While 69% of these respondents said masks are a history and people rarely wear them, 5% of the respondents said over 20% of people wear a mask.

Police launch special drive to make New Year's Eve party drugs-free; verifying contact details of party-goers mandatory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of New Year's Eve, the Bengaluru City Police have launched a special drive to curb drug use during parties and revelry.

Over the last week, the city police have rounded up hundreds of known peddlers and raided their houses to check for narcotics and possible leads on deals being brokered ahead of New Year's Eve. All known peddlers with a history of cases under the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act, of 1985, have been summoned by the jurisdictional police and questioned over their recent activities. Paying guest accommodations, employees with private companies who have been booked earlier for similar offences have been summoned and instructed to inform the police if they come across any instances of drug sale and usage, a police officer part of the drive said.

"We have launched a special drive since last week and jurisdictional police have rounded up peddlers for questioning and searched their houses," City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

According to him, the CCB Anti Narcotics Wing carried out raids in many places and booked two cases which included the seizure of ₹21 crore worth of heroin and MDMA. "It is one of the biggest raids so far in the year," he said. This cache of narcotics was being stashed for New Year's Eve.

A senior police official said that the target given was to make New Year revelry drug-free and police have activated local intelligence and informer networks to look out for parties, gatherings, and drug usage. Police have also stepped up vigil at entry and exit points and at railway stations, bus stands, and airport and courier companies to check for smuggling.

The police are also coordinating with the Excise Department and wine stores to keep a tab on bulk purchases. "This could also give us a lead on possible rave parties," a police official said. The police on the outskirts of the city are coordinating with the villagers and people living in and around farmhouses to keep a tab on crowds visiting the farmhouses.

Contact info of visitors

The police have also directed pubs, bars and restaurants to keep a log book to record the details of the visitors and guests on New Year's Eve. The details with an ID card number to check their age and contact number to contact them in case of any eventualities have to be logged, police have said. The managements have been asked to cross-check the contact number of the visitors before allowing them to enter the premises to avoid getting the wrong numbers.

NIA court convicts two members of AQIS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Special Court in Bengaluru convicted two radicalised members of Al-Qaeda in Indian Sub-Continent (AQIS) and sentenced them to 7 years imprisonment on Wednesday.

The duo, Akthar Hussain Laskar alias Mohammed Hussain of Assam and Abdul Aleem Mondal alias Mohammed Juba of West Bengal, have also been slapped with a fine of ₹41,000 and ₹51,000 respectively by the NIA court.

The NIA in August 2022 had registered a case against the duo charging them under Sections 153A, 153B, 120B, 121, 121A, 114 and 511 of IPC and sections 10, 13, 15, 16, 18 & 20 of UA (P) Act, 1967.

The conviction of the two AQIS members is a major success in NIA's sustained efforts to identify the banned outfit's 'Handlers' and prosecute them, NIA said.

NIA investigations revealed that the two convicts had been radicalised and recruited by foreign-based online handlers of AQIS and were actively engaged in furthering

The duo had planned to carry out Jihad against members of a community in India after undergoing training in Khorasan, as part of AQIS conspiracy to promote its anti-India agenda

the activities of the AQIS. Post recruitment by AQIS, the men had joined various Telegram Groups, NIA said in a statement.

NIA investigations have further revealed that the men had conspired to undertake Hijra to the Khorasan Province of Afghanistan, where they also intended to undergo training, NIA alleged.

The duo had planned to carry out Jihad against members of a particular community in India after undergoing training in Khorasan, as part of the AQIS conspiracy to promote its anti-India agenda through acts of terror and violence. They were also in the process of radicalising and recruiting other youth into the AQIS, besides motivating them to commit Hijra to Khorasan of Afghanistan, NIA claimed.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, LIKETHA Jayaram, W/o. Jayaram.B.M, #1484, 6th Division, Mutturu, Doddaballapura, Bluru Dist-561203 have changed my name to Likitha Anil vide affidavit dt.27.12.23 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I, MADAN, S/o. Sudhakar, #325, School Road, Jakkur, Yelahanka, Bluru-64 have changed my name to Madan.J.S (Madan Jakkur Sudhakar) vide affidavit dt. 27.12.23 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I BALAJI H.S Residing At No.162/27, 69th cross, 5th block Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560010 Have Changed my Minor daughter's name from Pratiksha to Pratiksha Balaji Srinivasan Vide Affidavit Dated 27/12/2023 Before Notary Vanajakshi. R (Regd No. 20041) Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU (CCH-58)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 25317 OF 2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Regional office at: ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder Mrs. Mansi Singh D/o Anil Kumar Singh, Age: 24 Years
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Mohammed Kaleem Pasha,
S/o Mohammed Jairuddin, Aged about 45 Years, R/a 22/2, 4th Cross, SBM Colony, Mathikere, Bengaluru-650054
...DEFENDANT

Summons/ Notice through Paper Publication

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 9,32,759/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble 57th Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Court, Mayohall (CCH-58) at Bengaluru in person or by a advocate/ pleader on 09/02/2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 16th day of December, 2023.

By order of the Court
the Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No. 177/1, (88), 1st Floor,
Besides 12th Cross,
Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru- 560 002.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O. S. No. 25968/2022
Hg. 13/02/2024

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560 068, Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff
And :
Sri Sreekant Kogala
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri Sreekant Kogala,
S/o Sri Rama Krishnaiah,
Aged about 38 years, No.408, A Block, Deepicas Residency, Nagavarapalaya Main Road, CV Raman Nagar, Near Apollo Medicals,
Bangalore- 560 093

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 4,69,989/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Nine Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 13/02/2024 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 16/12/2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. NO. 25844/2021
Hg. 13.02.2024

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068
Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa
...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. Vasanth Kumar H. G.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Mr Vasanth Kumar H G,
S/o Sri. Hebbur Ganganna Govindaraju,
Aged about 37 years,
Residing at 894, 14th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Near Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560086

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.7,03,654/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four Only) together with interest @ 14.75% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 13-02-2024 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 16/12/2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bengalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560047

Scientists are using fruit flies to find clues to Huntington's disease

Understanding how Huntington's disease progresses at the molecular level is key, so it can reveal some mechanism that, if interrupted, can stop the disease in its tracks. A paper published this month has taken some important strides in this direction by studying a deceptively diminutive creature

D.P. Kasbekar

Every month, the medical genetics clinic in the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, sees three or four people with Huntington's disease. The numbers might appear small, but in each case behind the individual lies a family devastated.

At first, Huntington's disease patients have mild symptoms: forgetfulness, loss of balance, and clumsiness in performing simple tasks. The symptoms begin between the ages of 30 and 50, by when the patient might also have had children. The condition progressively worsens. The patient suffers mood swings, has difficulty in reasoning, shows abnormal and uncontrollable jerky movements, and experiences difficulty in speaking, swallowing, and walking.

The patient eventually dies, but not before raising the spectre that one or more of their children will suffer the same fate. There is no cure.

This is why understanding how Huntington's disease progresses at the molecular level is important, so that it can reveal some mechanism that, if interrupted, can stop the disease in its tracks.

A paper published this month in *Scientific Reports*, by researchers from the University of Szeged, in Hungary, has taken some important strides in this direction based on – surprisingly – the diminutive fruit fly.

The common fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) has proved an effective test platform for genetic research. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Glutamine repeats

The patient's misfortune is that they carry a mutated version of a gene called HTT. The HTT gene codes for a protein called huntingtin, or Htt.

Nerve cells in the human body require the Htt protein for their normal functioning and survival. The mutated gene, however, encodes an abnormal Htt protein that instead destroys the neurons that regulate movement, thinking, and memory.

The normal HTT gene contains a stretch of DNA that specifies the number of times the amino acid glutamine is repeated in the Htt protein. This number varies from 11 to 31. In the mutant versions of the HTT gene, this stretch is expanded to encode 35 or more repeats. Researchers have even found variants with more than 150 repeats.

As the number of repetitions increase, the severity of Huntington's disease increases and its debilitation begins at an earlier age.

Long and short of it

Each one of us has two copies of the HTT gene: one we inherited from the father and one from the mother. The disease is triggered even if only one copy of the gene is mutated while the other is normal. That is, the mutant gene is said to be *dominant* to its normal counterpart.

Some proteins other than Htt also have tracts of multiple glutamines. In a subset of these proteins, the DNA sequence that encodes the tract is larger in mutated versions of the gene. And as in Huntington's disease, these mutants also can cause region-specific neuronal degeneration in the brain that leads to muscle control disorders, like spinocerebellar ataxia.

There are many enzymes that can cut up proteins that have polyglutamine tracts to create shorter fragments containing the polyglutamines. These fragments are toxic because they interfere adversely with several cellular processes.

Different neurons have exhibited a graded sensitivity to these fragments depending on the protein.

In sum, genes with polyglutamine tracts are (potentially) bad news. And we neither know why some of these genes are expanded nor how exactly the short fragments cause neuronal degeneration.

Clues from fruit flies

In the new study from Hungary, the researchers genetically engineered fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) to express the polyglutamine tract of a mutated human HTT gene in their nervous system.

To do this, they used a gene called Gal4 from baker's yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Gal4 contains information with which cells manufacture a protein called Gal4p. This protein binds specifically to a short DNA sequence called the upstream activating sequence (UAS). In baker's yeast, when Gal4p binds to UAS, it activates the expression of all the genes that come *after* (i.e. downstream), allowing the yeast to utilise the sugar galactose.

Remarkably, the Gal4/UAS system also works in the fruit fly genome. When the DNA sequence for the Gal4p protein is placed downstream of a fly gene called *elav*, something curious happens: the Gal4p protein is expressed in all of the fly's neurons – and only in the neurons.

If the fly also carries the mutated HTT gene downstream of UAS, then the fly's neuronal cells make the bad Htt protein, with its polyglutamine tract. Again, these proteins are made only in the neurons.

> The mutated gene encodes an abnormal Htt protein that destroys the neurons that regulate movement, thinking, and memory

In this way, the researchers were able to modify fruit flies so that their neurons produced Htt proteins that had 120 repeating units of glutamine. These flies displayed neuronal degeneration, an impaired ability to climb surfaces, and lower viability as well as longevity.

The researchers had a 'control' group, with fruit flies whose neurons made proteins with 25 repeating glutamine units – which is in the 'normal' range for human HTT. These flies were largely unaffected. Expressing the longer tract produced symptoms in the fruit flies resembling those of Huntington's disease in humans – whereas expressing the shorter tract did not.

The Yod1 gene

With the two groups in hand, the researchers set about testing whether the pathogenesis resembling Huntington's disease in the fruit flies was changed for better or for worse when they turned the expression of different genes up or down.

The team investigated 32 genes and found that excessive expression – or overexpression – of one, called Yod1, removed all of the disease-like effects in the flies, including the neurodegeneration, impediments to motor activity, and lower viability and longevity. The team also found 'control' flies that expressed only the short tracts in the Htt proteins, or which jointly expressed the short tract and the Yod1 gene, also showed no signs of neurodegeneration.

In addition, the overexpression of Yod1 was also found to increase the expression of other genes involved in specific cellular processes. The researchers interpreted this to mean certain cellular processes could be part of a broader response by the fly to the cellular stress caused by the longer tract.

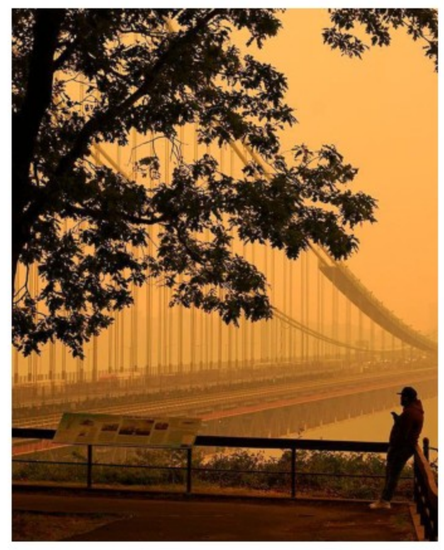
It takes a village

The study's findings are significant. This said, scientists will still need to establish that fruit flies that overexpress the *human* version of the Yod1 gene will also suppress the Huntington's-like pathogenesis. If the human gene has an ameliorative effect in the fly, it will be reasonable to expect its overexpression could ameliorate Huntington's disease in humans, too.

Science aficionados won't be surprised to find we are more likely to figure out how bigger tracts induce neurodegeneration from studies with fruit flies than with Huntington's disease patients in the clinic or with postmortem brains. Model systems such as fruit flies and yeasts offer scientists unparalleled versatility with which to investigate questions of the molecular mechanisms triggered by disease genes.

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Given that studies with yeast and fruit flies have revealed a potentially helpful role for a fly protein in Huntington's disease, these and other model creatures – and the scientists who study them – deserve to be counted among the residents of this village.

(The author is a retired scientist)



A man looks through smoke from wildfires in Canada at the George Washington Bridge in New Jersey in June 2023. AP

Significant climate milestones of 2023

The Hindu Bureau

From registering the hottest summer on record to some significant steps at the yearly United Nations climate summit, 2023 was a year of extremes. Here are some climate-related milestones from this time.

Hottest year: The year is all but set to be declared the hottest in history. According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2023 was 0.1°C warmer than the 10-month average for 2016, currently the warmest calendar year on record, and 1.43°C warmer than the pre-industrial reference period from January to October.

Highest sea surface temperature ever: Marine heat waves - periods when ocean temperatures are warmer than 90% of prior observations for a given time of year - were widespread in 2023. According to the U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 48% of global oceans experienced them in August 2023.

Sea ice in the Antarctic reached an annual maximum of 16.96 million sq. km on September 10, 2023, the lowest since 1979. This year's maximum was 1.03 million sq. km, below the previous record low set in 1986

Global sea surface temperatures (SST) are usually highest in March. But per C3S data, global average SSTs remained at record highs throughout April, May, June, and July 2023.

Lowest Antarctic sea ice extent: Sea-ice extent is the area of ice covering the Antarctic Ocean at a given time. In 2023, Antarctic sea ice had record low ice growth from April. According to NOAA, sea ice in the Antarctic reached an annual maximum extent of 16.96 million sq. km on September 10, 2023, the lowest since 1979. This year's maximum was 1.03 million sq. km, below the previous record low set in 1986.

Record carbon dioxide levels: Global carbon dioxide emissions are expected to have hit a new high in 2023, up 1.1% from 2022. The Global Carbon Budget Report, published in December 2023, said overall CO2 emissions, which climbed to a record last year, had plateaued in 2023 due to a slight drop in deforestation.

Loss and damage fund: The world's first loss and damage fund for the impacts of climate change was created in 2023, at the start of the COP28 climate talks in the U.A.E. in early December. The fund will be based at the World Bank but managed by an independent secretariat.

According to a senior U.N. official, it has received pledges of $792 million from governments, which is a lot but still well short of the billions required to fulfill its purpose.

Impact of food systems: For the first time in the history of climate summits, 134 countries at COP28 pledged to tackle the climate impact of the food industry. These countries represent over 5.7 billion people, 70% of the food we eat, nearly 500 million farmers, and 76% of total emissions from the global food system. But observers noted the declaration doesn't include quantitative targets.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Getting the noble gases to talk

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Inhaling a sufficiently large quantity of radon, a noble gas, can cause lung cancer. This is because radon decays to some lighter isotopes that are likelier than radon to cling to lung tissue. What are these isotopes collectively called?

QUESTION 2

Since 1988, the periodic table of elements has been divided into X number of groups. A group is basically a column on the table. The noble gases belong to the last of these groups. X = ?

QUESTION 3

This element is one of the noble gases according to its place in the periodic table. However, it is expected to be significantly reactive due to the effects of the special theory of relativity on its subatomic particles. Scientists don't know for sure because this element is synthetic, and has only been produced in minute quantities. Name it.

QUESTION 4

In 1962, the British chemist Neil Bartlett produced the first chemical compound containing a noble gas: _____ hexafluoroplatinate. Fill in the blank with the name of the noble gas.

QUESTION 5

When electrons jump from the 2p10 to the 5d5 energy levels in a particular noble-gas atom, they emit radiation of a wavelength that, when multiplied by 1,650,763.73, would give rise exactly to a distance of 1m. Name the noble gas.

Answers to December 26 quiz:

1. Sanskrit word for 'black' that's also the name of a deity – **Ans: Krishna**

2. Coating announced by Surrey NanoSystems in 2014 – **Ans: Vantablack**

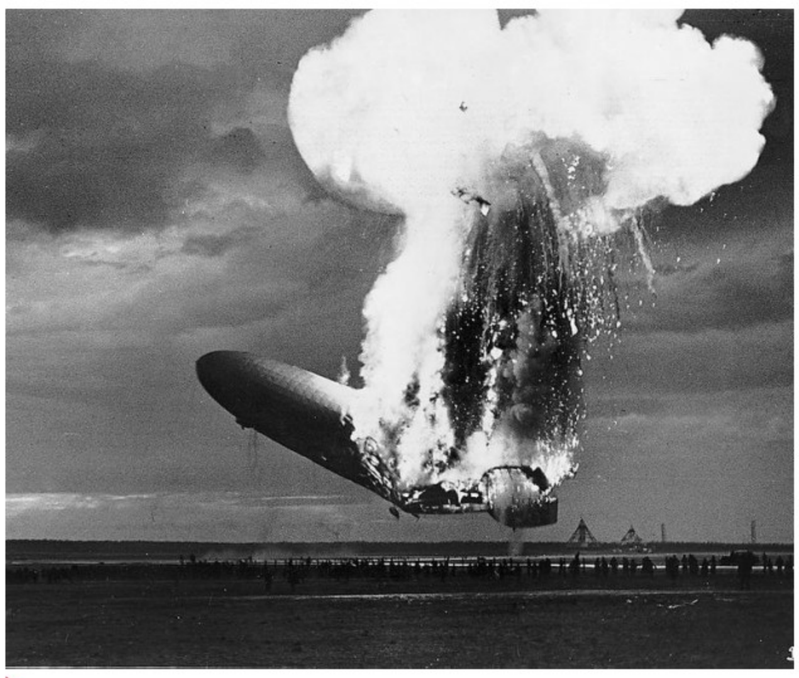
3. University where a team made the current blackest substance – **Ans: MIT**

4. Colour shades different in lightness, not this – **Ans: Chromaticity**

5. Source of deep black dye made in the 14th century – **Ans: Gall-nuts**

Visual: **Rod cells**

First contact: Isha Joshi | Hilal Bhat | Sourav Kundu



Visual: After the Hindenburg disaster in 1937, pictured above, many airships switched from hydrogen as the lift gas to a noble gas. Name the gas. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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What about the quality? Will it be as good as what my doctor prescribes?

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Yes, across the world especially in the US, large pharmacy chains like Walgreens and CVS sell their own brands of medicines. Once a medicine's patent expires, companies like these make their own brands & sell. In the past, in India, no company had the size & scale like the US counterparts to make their own brands. Now, MedPlus with 4000 stores and over 4500 cr turnover is at a size & scale which allows it to make its own brand.

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A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of school teacher posts advertised by Assam

14,223 Assam has issued an ad in a series of posts on X for recruitment school teachers, Education Minister Ranoj Pegu informed. The Directorate of Secondary Education has released an ad for 1,424 post-graduate and 7,249 graduate teachers. PTI

Missing Nepalis who joined the Russian Army

100 Nepal's Foreign Minister NP Saud informed that an estimated 200 Nepali youths, who went to Russia on foreign employment visas, study visas and visit visas have joined the Russian army. Of these, seven individuals have lost their lives, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. PTI

Funds for govt. approved long bridge construction on Ganga

3,064.4 in ₹ crore. The Union Cabinet approved the construction of a new 4.56 km long, 6-lane bridge on the river Ganga, connecting Digha and Sonepur in Bihar, according to an official statement. PTI

Amount invested by TotalEnergies in JV with Adani

300 in $ million. French energy giant TotalEnergies and Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) will own a 50:50 stake in the company. TotalEnergies, which holds about 19.75 % stake in AGEL, had previously invested in Adani Green Energy Twenty Three Ltd. PTI

Amount raised by companies in December IPO

8,931.69 in ₹ crore. The previous best was in December 2021, when 11 companies mopped up Rs 9,534 crore through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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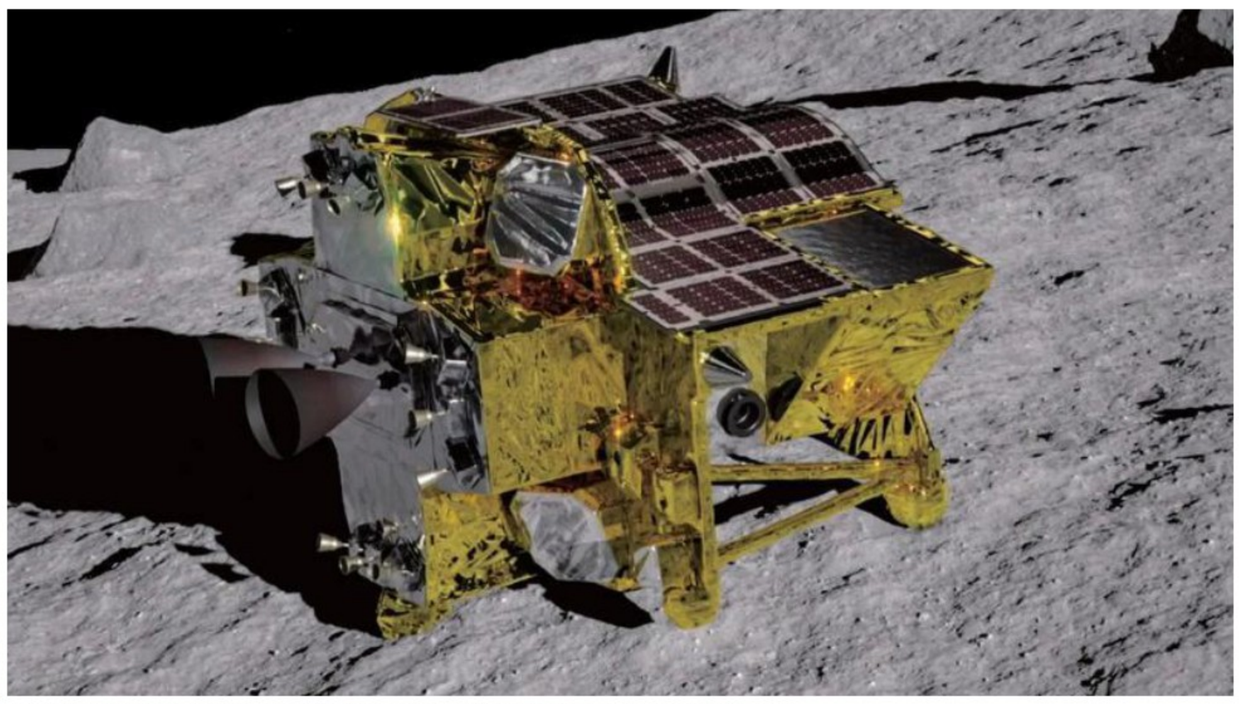


Lunar liftoff: (From left) An H-2A rocket carrying JAXA's SLIM moon lander is launched at Tanegashima Space Center on Tanegashima island, Japan on September 7, 2023; An artist's impression of SLIM on the lunar surface. REUTERS/JAXA

Will SLIM revolutionise lunar landings?

What factors contribute to SLIM's significantly lower weight compared to other lunar exploration missions, and how does this impact its mission objectives? How will SLIM affect what India and Japan are planning for their joint Lunar Polar Exploration mission?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

At 1.21 pm IST on December 25, Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft entered into orbit around the moon after a months-long journey, and ahead of its planned moon-landing attempt on January 19. If the attempt succeeds, Japan will become only the fifth country to soft-land a robotic craft on the natural satellite, months after India succeeded with its Chandrayaan-3 mission in August. Perhaps more importantly, SLIM's success or failure will also affect the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission.

What is SLIM?

SLIM is a spacecraft built and launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on September 7, 2023, from the Tanegashima spaceport. It weighed only 590 kg at launch, which is almost one-seventh of Chandrayaan-3, which weighed 3,900 kg at launch. Of course, the latter mission also carried a larger suite of instruments.

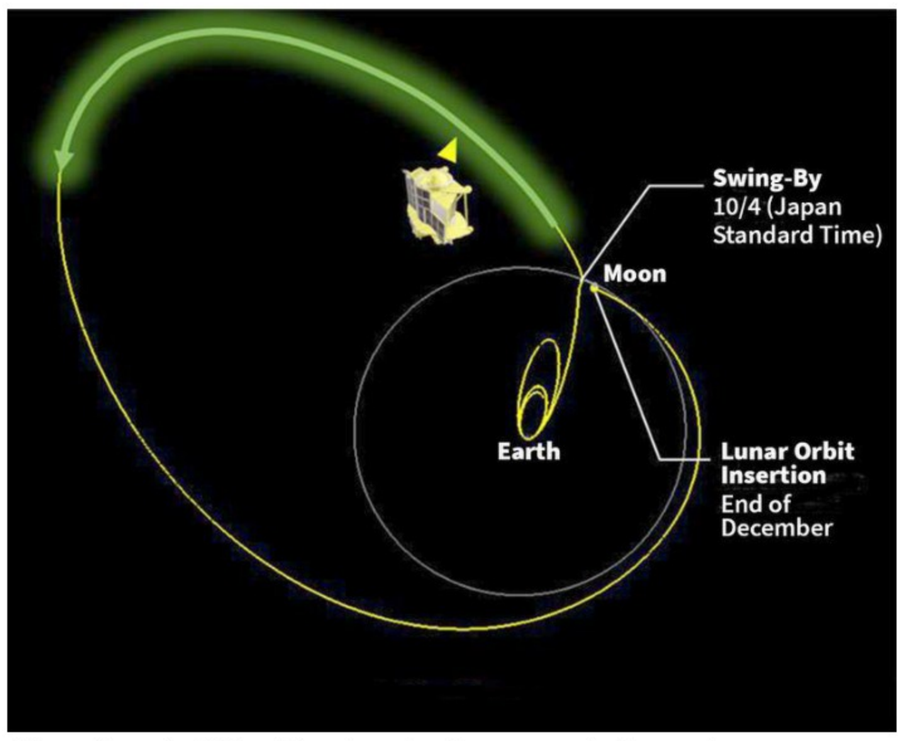
SLIM was launched together with XRISM, a next-generation X-ray space telescope, onboard an H-2A rocket. JAXA had planned to launch SLIM and XRISM together, so delays in readying XRISM pushed SLIM's launch date from 2021 to 2023.

On December 25, SLIM entered into an elliptical orbit around the moon over three minutes or so. Its apogee (farthest point) in this orbit is 4,000 km and perigee (closest point) is 600 km above the lunar surface.

Notably, JAXA launched SLIM only two weeks after the surface component of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission succeeded and Russia's Luna 25 spacecraft failed. SLIM will also mark the second Japanese attempt this year to soft-land on the moon: the HAKUTO-R M1 lander, built by Japanese company ispace, crashed in late April after its engines shut down too soon during the landing.

How did SLIM get to the moon?

SLIM is lighter because it carried much less fuel. Of Chandrayaan-3's 3.9 tonnes, the propulsion module alone weighed 2.1 tonnes. This is why the mission was launched on July 14 and could reach the moon less than a month later, by following a route called the Hohmann transfer orbit.



A diagram illustrating SLIM's path from the earth to the moon, spanning four months. JAXA

On the other hand, SLIM took four months because it followed a longer but more fuel-thrifty route based on weak-stability boundary theory.

Once it was launched into an orbit around the earth, SLIM swung around the planet multiple times, building up its kinetic energy with each swing. Once it was travelling fast enough, it shot up towards the moon's orbit. Chandrayaan-3 followed a qualitatively similar path until this point.

Once it got close to the moon, Chandrayaan-3 applied its brakes - which consume fuel in space - so that it could slow down enough to be captured by the moon's weaker gravity. But once SLIM got near the moon, instead of slowing down and being captured by the moon's gravity, it allowed itself to be deflected in the moon's direction even as it shot past lunar orbit, deeper into space (see image above). This deflection is the result of the combined forces exerted by the earth and the moon. Physicists worked it out in the late 1980s for another JAXA mission, called 'Hiten'.

What will SLIM do on the moon?

SLIM was subsequently on a larger, more loopy path that was designed to bring it back near the moon in December after it had slowed down further. This event happened on Christmas Day, followed by orbital capture the next day.

By sacrificing some time, SLIM could be more fuel-efficient.

All this said SLIM's standout feature is its reputation as the "moon sniper" - a title derived from what it will do on the moon on January 19: it will try to land within 100 metres of its chosen landing site. This is an unusually tight limit given the history of moon-landing missions. For example, the 'Vikram' lander of Chandrayaan-3 was designed to descend in an elliptical area that was 4 km long downrange and 2.5 km wide cross-range, and it eventually landed at a spot 350 metres away from a predetermined one.

(Downrange means in the direction of the craft's motion and cross-range means to either side. In effect, these distances specify how much the craft's path can deviate in these two directions.)

NASA's hulking 'Curiosity' rover was tasked with landing at the centre of a 20 km x 7 km ellipse in Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012, and it landed 2.4 km away. The most precise moon-landing in history was China's Chang'e 3 spacecraft: it landed 89 metres away from its chosen spot in the Mare Imbrium plain on the moon on December 14, 2013. However, it was still allowed to land anywhere inside an ellipse of 6 km x 6 km.

SLIM, in effect, will set the record on January 19 for attempting to soft-land with the smallest ever area tolerance on the moon. The chosen site is near the Shioli Crater, at 13.3° S and 25.2° E. Just as the 'Vikram' lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission used data from the Chandrayaan 2 orbiter to help guide its descent, SLIM will use data from JAXA's SELENE orbiter, which ended in 2009.

Its lower mass - only 120 kg excluding fuel - will help in this endeavour by rendering it more manoeuvrable while its small size will be a test of its economical design.

Just before it lands, SLIM will deploy two small rovers called Lunar Excursion Vehicle (LEV) 1 and 2. LEV-1, LEV-2, and SLIM will together study the lunar surface near the landing point, collect temperature and radiation readings, and attempt to study the moon's mantle.

How will SLIM affect Chandrayaan-4?

Scientists are interested in the moon's South Pole region at large because parts of some of the craters here are always in shadow, allowing the temperature there to drop very low as well as sparing them the effects of sunlight and diurnal temperature variations. We already know these parts contain water-ice, and a lunar surface mission could potentially explore these sites and attempt to extract water.

When the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully executed its Chandrayaan-3 mission by soft-landing a robotic craft on the moon's surface, on August 23, it also concluded the second phase of its lunar exploration programme. The first mission of its third phase is the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, a.k.a. Chandrayaan 4.

LUPEX will be an Indian-Japan joint enterprise (however, while JAXA has approved LUPEX, India is yet to) with an earliest launch date in 2026. It will explore an area closer to the moon's south pole than Chandrayaan-3 did - and this makes all the difference.

The terrain near either of the moon's poles is rocky, pocked with several craters, and full of steep slopes. Axiomatically, if there is a suitable landing spot for a (relatively) large landing module or rover, its downrange and cross-range limits will be lower than they were for Chandrayaan-3. The craft will have to land as close to the site as possible, if not at the site itself.

The technologies JAXA will test with SLIM, but especially a feature-matching algorithm and navigation systems, will be crucial for this aspect of LUPEX. For now, JAXA is expected to provide the launch vehicle and the lunar rover while India will provide the lander module. The landing site is yet to be fixed; to compare, the 'Vikram' lander landed 600 km from the South Pole.

THE GIST

- Japan's SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon) spacecraft entered lunar orbit on December 25, aiming for a moon landing on January 19, potentially making Japan the fifth country to soft-land a craft on the moon.
- Weighing 590 kg at launch, SLIM is significantly lighter than India's Chandrayaan 3 (3,900 kg), emphasising fuel efficiency and carrying fewer instruments.
- SLIM's journey to the moon utilised a fuel-thrifty route based on weak-stability boundary theory, taking four months compared to Chandrayaan 3's shorter Hohmann transfer orbit which took less than a month.
- Set to land near the Shioli Crater, SLIM aims for an unprecedented precision landing within 100 meters, aided by data from JAXA's SELENE orbiter and deploying small rovers for surface analysis.
- SLIM's success or failure will inform Japan's collaboration with India on the LUPEX mission, which will explore the moon's South Pole region and require precise landing technologies.

Protest by KRV activists over non-use of Kannada on signboards transforms into vandalism in city

At least 50 complaints of vandalism were registered. Though it was most intense on the international airport road, there were reports of retail outlets being damaged in several other areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-wide protests against non-Kannada signboards for commercial establishments organised by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) turned into vandalism targeting English signboards on Wednesday.

At least 50 complaints of vandalism have been lodged with the police from across the city. Though it was most intense on the international airport road, reports of retail outlets being vandalised came in from the Central Business District, K.R. Puram, Rajajinagar, Chickpet, and Mysuru Road.

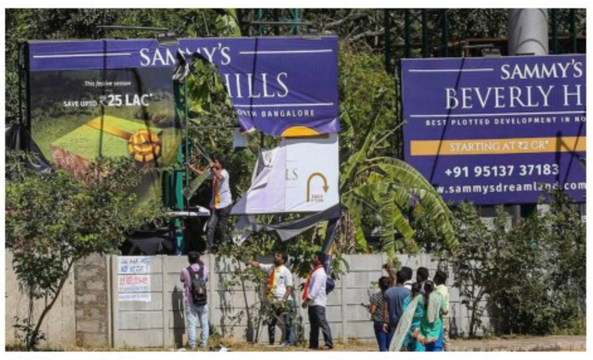
Over 900 KRV activists were detained. FIRs began to be registered on Wednesday night after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he had instructed police officials to take suitable action against those who had taken the law into their hands. At least seven FIRs were registered against the activists when last checked on Wednesday night.

A few days ago, Mr. Siddaramaiah expressed his support for the implementation of the rule that signboards should have at least 60% in Kannada.

After a delegation of KRV met Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike set a deadline of February 28 for the implementation of the rule and took up a survey.

However, T.A. Narayana Gowda, president, KRV, led a protest march on Wednesday from Sadahalli Gate on International Airport Road, demanding immediate implementation of the Kannada signboard rule. Police detained him at Sadahalli Gate, which made the procession turn violent. Activists, who were in thousands, overpowered the police at the spot and blocked the way for the vehicle carrying Mr. Gowda for several kilometres.

Activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike during a rally in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI



A billboard being vandalised by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activists in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Activists took to vandalising signboards of commercial establishments on either side of the road as police struggled to rein in the crowds.

One of the focal points of the protest was the newly opened Phoenix Mall of Asia.

"As part of our three-month-old drive, we went to the mall and requested them to use Kannada. But the mall management served us a legal notice questioning who we were to question them. They refused to include Kannada in signboards, which provoked the protests on December 27," said a senior KRV activist.

Many activists were seen on open jeeps or tempo travellers in many parts of the city warning shopkeepers to change the signboards and, in many instances vandalising non-Kannada signboards.

'Such struggle needed'

"We are not opposed to anyone doing their business in Bengaluru. But this is Karnataka, and Kannada needs to be given primacy. We are only asking for the law on signboards to be followed. Some may have got police protection today, but the police would not be around every day," Mr. Gowda said, issuing veiled threats.

However, later in the day, he issued a statement describing the campaign as a success and saying it was "non-violent" as activists targeted only signboards, not shops and people. Apologising for the inconvenience caused, he said,

"A massive struggle was necessary to save Kannada in Bengaluru". He said KRV would continue the campaign until the signboards are in Kannada.

Mr. Gowda was detained at Yelahanka Police Training School when last checked on Wednesday night, and KRV activists continued their protest demanding his release.

Police face flak

The city police have come under criticism on social media, where many users alleged that the police were "mute spectators" to the vandalism on the city's streets.

"How can the police not stop such violence and vandalism? We need confidence-boosting measures from the government," wrote T.V. Mohandas Pai on X (formerly called Twitter). "Vandalism, violence, destruction of property and intimidation is not acceptable. Police were made mute spectators," wrote Bhaskar Rao, former city police commissioner and a BJP leader now.

Retailers condemn vandalism, seek time to implement signboard rule

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Multiple retail trade bodies condemned the protest and vandalism of shop signboards by the Kannada activist group Karnataka Rakshana Vedike in the city on Wednesday. Especially, given that the city's civic body has set a February 28 deadline to implement the 60% Kannada in signboards rule and said that a survey will be taken up across the city over the next fortnight, such vandalism was uncalled for, they argue.

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) led by T.A. Narayana Gowda has taken up an awareness campaign on the issue for three months now and met several commercial establishments. They also met Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath recently, who assured that the rule would be implemented by February 28, following which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also tweeted his support for the campaign and the civic body ordered a survey in the next 15 days.

However, KRV took out a protest rally on Wednesday. Retailers Association of India has written to Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goel seeking his "urgent intervention" to stop any further acts of vandalism and violence against retail outlets. They further claimed that hearing a writ petition RAI filed in the High Court of Karnataka in 2019, the Court had granted a stay order on the 60% Kannada in signboards rule. However, the civic body officials claimed there were other laws including the recent Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022 which does have this rule.

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike members vandalising an billboard of a business establishment during a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Arun Kumar, a member of Malleshwaram Commercial Association, said they condemned the vandalism by KRV activists and said while the civic body itself had given time till February 28, no one had any right to take the law into their own hands. "It is not as easy as KRV thinks. Many companies need permission from higher ups and budgets, it cannot be done overnight," he said.

Suhail Yousuf, Secretary of Brigade Shops and Establishments Association, said in a cosmopolitan global city like Bengaluru, such vandalism had no place.

Sajjan Raj Mehta from Chickpet Traders Association said his association is neither in conflict with the State government order nor with the KRV. "In Chickpet, many shops already have Kannada signboards, and those who did not, have started to implement the order, he claimed.

Can't reframe law to make magistrate sign every page of investigation officer's case diary: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the court cannot reframe a legislation by adding words to the statute, the High Court of Karnataka has declined to issue direction to the judicial magistrates to affix their signature on every page of the case dairy maintained by the investigation officers in all types of criminal cases.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting a petition filed by Mohammed Shiyab, accused number-8 in BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru's murder case.

It was contended on behalf of the petitioner that investigating officers can tamper with the case diary when it is not signed by the magistrate at every stage when the diary is produced before the court as per the law. It was also contended on behalf of the petitioner that procedure of affixing signature of the magistrate on the case diary exists in some of the States.

Petitioner's plea

Acceding to petitioner's plea would run foul to the principles laid down by the apex court, which had made it clear in several judgements that "it is not the duty of the court either to enlarge the scope of legislation or the intention of the legislature when the language of the provision is plain and unambiguous.... and the court cannot rewrite, recast or reframe the legislation for the good reason that it has no power to legislate."

The High Court made it clear that the Criminal Rules of Practice notified by the State of Karnataka in the year 1968 has no provision for the magistrate to sign the case diary. "If a statute prescribes an action to be taken in a particular manner as provided under the statute, it must be taken in the said manner and no other manner," the High Court said citing apex court's judgment.

The plea that the petitioner has generated a rational apprehension that the investigating officer would not be fair, if accepted, would run counter to the judgements of the apex court, which had held that "abuse of power cannot be presumed and it is not judicial approach to distrust and suspect the police officer without good grounds."

Merely because the petitioner had suffered the order of remand or denial of bail at the hands of the concerned magistrate, before whom the case diary was produced by the investigation officer, would not mean that he would suffer prejudice if the magistrate would not sign the case diary on every occasion, the High Court said.

Gruha Jyothi scheme: More than a crore zero bills issued this year in Karnataka

REWIND 2023

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

This was the year when the developments in the power sector, other than the annual tariff revision, made it to the news frequently owing to the new government's flagship Gruha Jyothi scheme and power shortage brought forth due to the draught among other things.

One of the interesting developments in the sector this time was the tariff revision which was announced in the two-day gap between the election day and election result day. Much to the outrage of the citizens, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) approved an average of 70 paise per unit hike, which was the highest in at least the last six years.

200 units free power

However, a little down the lane, domestic consumers in Karnataka breathed a sigh of relief as the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, which provided 200 units of free power to those who had previously consumed an average of 200 or fewer units of power every month, for a year was announced.

The scheme was formally inaugurated on July 1.

In the Budget presented a few days later, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah earmarked a whopping ₹13,910 crore for the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Gruha Jyothi scheme was formally inaugurated on July 1. In the Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah earmarked ₹13,910 crore for the scheme. FILE PHOTO

Even though the registration process for the scheme initially had a few glitches, so far, close to 1.5 crore domestic consumers have registered for the Gruha Jyothi scheme and more than a crore zero bills have been issued this year.

The scheme also attracted the wrath of industries, especially MSMEs as the industrialists argued that the free power to domestic consumers meant that industries would have to bear the brunt. After negotiations with Energy Minister K.J. George, the protests died down.

Shortage of power

On October 10, Mr. George announced that due to the failure of monsoon and a surge in demand, the State was experiencing a power shortfall of 40-50 Million Units every day. The peak demand in the State hit a record of 16,950 Mega Watts on August 25.

With no rainfall, the hydel generation took a hit while the cloudy conditions hampered the solar power generation too. Acting quickly, the Energy Department took up a series of measures to mitigate the power shortage in the State including the power swapping agreements with the states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. After a month, the Energy Department said that the State had overcome the power shortage.

The department is expecting peak demand in the State to touch 18,000-18,500 MW in the upcoming summer and has also said that it is confident of catering to the demand without any hurdles.

Kadugodi electrocution

While the year started with an electrocution incident in January, the electrocution of a 23-year-old Soundharya and her nine-month-old daughter on November 19, right after Deepavali, in Hope Farm junction near Kadugodi, left citizens fuming. The electrocution occurred after Soundharya stepped on a snapped live conductor, which raised concerns about the public electric safety in the city.

After suspending the Bescom officials concerned, the Energy Department said that four separate investigations will be conducted to find out what led to the accident. While one report pointed out that the accident could have been avoided if not for the negligence of Bescom, the reports of the others are awaited.

PUBLIC NOTICE
(LOSS OF DOCUMENT)

My client **ZAMRUTHUNNISA,** Aged about 65 years, W/o.Late.H.S.Basheer Ahmed, Residing at # 17/1, Risaldar Street, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020, is the sole and Absolute one of the co-owners of all that Residential Vacant Site Bearing No.52/21, Khata No.33, New Khata No.252/52/21, Being Portion of Assessment No.21/1, situated at **Honniganahatti Village, Taverekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.**

That the schedule property originally belongs to her husband **Mr.H.S.Basheer Ahmed,** and who had acquired the same by way of a Registered Deed of Sale vide dated:17-11-1995 which is Registered as Document No.3520 of 1995-96 at Pages 127 to 131 in Volume No.1303 of Book-I, by the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore,

That the aforesaid original sale deed dated: 17-06-1995, previous link documents viz. GPA dated:15-07-1994 as well as the earlier title deed viz. Registered WILL dated:01-05-1952 have been lost and misplaced by client while in transit.

That the finder if any may please contact the undersigned who will be suitably rewarded for the same.

ABDUL LATEEF KHAN
M.A.,LL.B., **Advocate,**
No.16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road,
1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, B'lore-84.
M : 9845110533
Place : Bangalore Date : 27-12-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that our client **Kuppaala Padmasree w/o. M. Umashankar** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s. Sri Sai Constructions** (hereinafter builder/seller). The Builder/seller represents and warrant that they are the absolute owners of the schedule property and it/they have not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the builder/seller further represents and warrants that it/they have not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it/them no other person/s, includes its successors, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Flat No.C G03,** Ground Floor, in **"SRI SAI SAROVAR"** measuring **SBA of 1386 sqft,** with **553.01 sqft UDS,** with One Covered Car Parking Space at basement, constructed on Sy No.47 & 48, measuring 2 Acre 2.25 guntas of converted land, BBMP Khata No.68/47, situated at **Kodigehalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bangalore.**

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere
Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 28-12-2023

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE No: S/XIII/04/2023-24

Following is the Schedule of E-Auction to be held during months of January, February, and March -2024 for Sale of on-line, Serviceable Locomotives and Depot Scrap under the jurisdictions of General Stores Depot/Hubballi and Mechanical General Stores Depot /Ashokapuram Depots and Hubballi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions of South Western Railway.

Types of Auction	Venue	January - 2024			February - 2024			March - 2024		
E-Auction	General Stores Depot/Hubballi	2nd	12th	24th	2nd	13th	21st	4th	12th	20th
	Mechanical General Stores Depot, Ashokapuram (Mysuru)	8th	17th	29th	8th	16th	26th	6th	14th	22nd
	Hubballi Division	9th	22nd	30th	9th	19th	27th	7th	15th	26th
	Bengaluru Division	11th	23rd	31st	12th	21st	29th	11th	19th	28th
	Mysuru Division	4th	16th	25th	5th	14th	22nd	5th	13th	21st

Sales of serviceable locomotive: Following Seven (7) number condemned, Surplus, Under Aged and Serviceable Locomotives are in E-Auction of Senior Divisional Materials Manager/Bengaluru viz WDG3A-13037, 13038, 13054 (Three locos available in E-Auction Catalogue) & WDG3A-13031, 13056, WDM3A-14082 & 14084 (These Four locos will be part of subsequent E-Auctions).

You are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-Auction. For details please contact to Deputy Chief Material Manager/General Stores Depot/ Hubballi (0836-2363466/ 9731668760), Deputy Chief Material Manager /Mechanical General Stores Depot/Ashokapuram (0821-2480171/ 9731665756), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Hubballi (0836-2363497/ 9731668750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Bengaluru (080-22873081/ 9731666750), Senior Divisional Material Manager/Mysuru (0821-2420817/ 9731667750).

For Locos Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/Diesel Loco Shed/ Krishnarajapuram & SSE/Diesel Loco Shed/ Krishnarajapuram - 9731666482

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in/E-auction

PUB/585/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Deputy Chief Materials Manager/CN/HQ/Hubballi**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **(i) SMT. SAVITHRAMMA,** W/o late K. Shivanna Gowda, **(ii) SRI. G.R. SAMPATHGIRI,** S/o late G.S.Ramachar and his brother **(iii) SRI. G.R. SREENIVASA MURTHY.**

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **21** days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

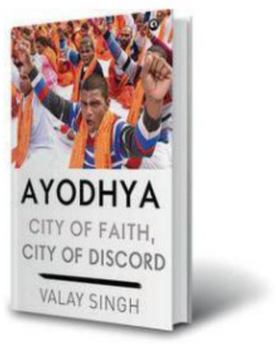
SCHEDULE

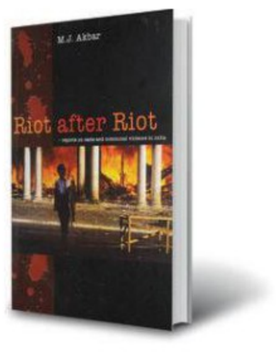
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.6 (PID No.49-30-6), No.7 (PID No.49-30-7), No.7/1 (PID No.49-30-7/1), measuring East to West 80 ft and North to South 40ft, in all measuring 3200 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, situated at 1st main, Dattatreya Extension, K.G. Nagar, Bangalore and bounded on:

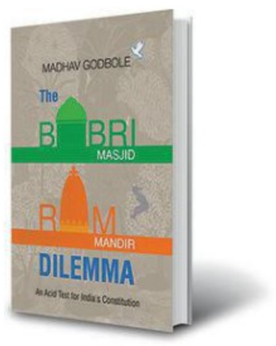
East by : Conservancy
West by : Main Road
North by : Private property
South by : Private property

Sd/- Goutam Chand .S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Solemn observance: People offer special prayer to observe the 27th anniversary of the Babri masjid demolition, demanding reconstruction at its original site. VIVEK BENDRE

Political indecision and missed chances: Babri Masjid's demolition in retrospect

From former Home Secretary Madhav Godbole to constitutional expert A.G. Noorani, writers trace the history of the mosque and how tireless workers like Ashok Singhal and L.K. Advani readied the ground for the destruction

Ziya Us Salam

It all started on a cold winter night when some idols were placed inside the masjid. This action changed the way a large section of Indians looked at mosques of medieval India. The mosque in question, Babri Masjid, is now history, demolished on December 6, 1992. Could Babri Masjid have been saved?

A lack of initiative...

In his book, *The Babri Masjid Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution*, former Home Secretary Madhav Godbole writes: "On the night of December 22, 1949, when idols were surreptitiously placed in the Babri Masjid, a picket of 15 policemen was present but it did not 'interfere' and preferred to merely look on. And of course, on 6 December 1992 when the Babri Masjid was wantonly destroyed by rowdy, unruly kar sevaks (volunteers), thousands of policemen, including the Armed Constabulary of Uttar Pradesh, were mere onlookers. Kalyan Singh, the Chief Minister at the time, had given clear instructions not to use force against the kar sevaks."

Mr. Godbole goes on to state, "Babri Masjid could have been saved from destruction if there was political will to act." He notes rather poetically, "If political initiative had been taken at the Prime Minister's level, the Mahabharata of this Ramayana could have been avoided."

Back then, the Ministry of Home Affairs had prepared a contingency plan for the takeover of the Babri Masjid by invoking Article 355 of the Constitution, and thereafter to dismiss the State government under Article 356. But then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had a different opinion. The rest is history.

Origins of a movement

There was a prolonged lull between 1949 and 1984 when the demand for a temple at the birthplace of Ram was raised by some right wing bodies.

"In September 1984, the VHP flagged the Ram-Janaki Rath Yatra (which began its journey from Sitamarhi in Bihar and arrived in Delhi on 30 October) to muster support for the Ram temple," writes Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay in *The RSS: Icons of the Indian Right*. Interestingly, the decision to form the Ram Janmabhoomi Mukti Yagna Samiti for the liberation of Lord Ram's birthplace was taken at a meeting held in April 1984 in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, a government-owned auditorium. Whether this Dharma Sansad had anything to do with science is debatable but the meeting was well attended.

As Valay Singh writes in *Ayodhya: City of Faith, City of Discord*, "Those who attended the Dharma Sansad represented the multitude of Hindu sects and traditions. A total of 558 religious' scholars, monks and gurus participated in the meeting. Together they represented seventy-six sects and traditions...The Dharma Sansad had the support of Gulzarilal Nanda, a seasoned Congressman and two-time interim Prime Minister who was a committed cow protection campaigner and a Hindi zealot." A little later, the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "facilitated" the opening of the locks at the disputed Babri mosque for worship.

"Ashok Singhal accelerated the agitation by commandeering the VHP to 'rescue' Lord Ram from 'captivity' -- he negotiated with the government to ensure that mass mobilisation programmes like shilanyas or the foundation laying ceremony be allowed on the eve of the 1989 Lok Sabha elections...From 1986 onwards when he was appointed general secretary of the VHP, until he died in 2015, Singhal was the face of the Ayodhya agitation. Although it was L.K. Advani who had kick-started the famous Somnath to Ayodhya rath yatra in 1990, it was Singhal who worked tirelessly to ready the ground," recalls Mr. Mukhopadhyay.

The RSS link

With many leaders of the VHP, Bajrang Dal and the BJP working towards a common purpose, those were days of communal tension. Even violence. M.J. Akbar expressed it briefly, in *Riot after Riot*, "1990 was a year in which politicians were constructing their futures - always a dangerous time for the innocent....Advani has touched a Hitler's nerve in India, and the reaction is electric. Myths have become facts...Revenge nursed in the privacy of the mind is now public doctrine. The pregnancy of a Hindu Rashtra has been proclaimed."

It was only a little earlier that the Bharatiya Janata Party had resolved at its Palampur conclave that the question of faith was paramount. The party held that "the nature of this controversy is such that it just cannot be sorted by court of law...The sentiments of the people must be respected, and Rama Janmasthan handed over to the Hindus."

Amidst all this, the fortunes of the RSS, as A.G. Noorani writes in *The RSS: A Menace to India*, soared. "Poison was injected into the atmosphere. The beatific smile of Ram in VHP posters had been replaced by a war-like image -- Ram with his trident and bow at ready."

According to Noorani, the rath yatra was not the decision of the BJP, "It was a carefully designed strategy of the RSS. The yatra was a concerted effort of all the leading members of the RSS family. The Toyota rath, carrying the party symbol, made their political intentions clear. Advani was the chosen hero."

Back in 1989, Syed Shahabuddin, a prime figure in the masjid protection effort, conceded, "With these programmes, the VHP has ensured that it shall never have to look backward on the road to Ayodhya."

Foresight? Maybe but as the grand Ram Mandir is due to be inaugurated where the Babri Masjid stood, Singhal, even Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and others are reduced to footnotes in the relentless march of time.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As the party celebrates its 138th foundation day, here is a small quiz on the Indian National Congress (INC)

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
At which educational institution in Mumbai was the INC founded on December 28, 1885, with 72 delegates in attendance?

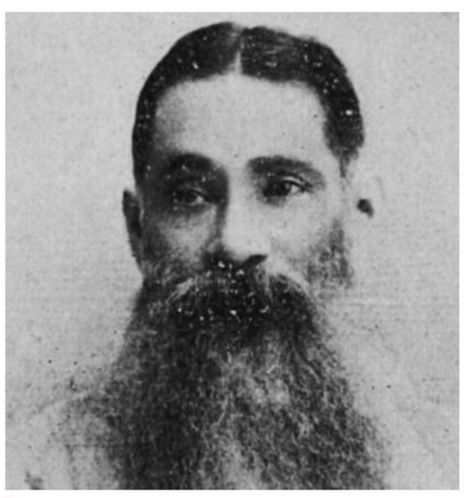
QUESTION 2
How is Dewan Bahadur Raghunatha Rao, a resident of Mylapore in Chennai, connected with the Indian National Congress?

QUESTION 3
Name the British civil servant and reformer, one of the founding fathers of the INC also considered the 'Father of Indian Ornithology'.

QUESTION 4
It was only in 1917 that the Indian National Congress got its first woman president. Name the lady who is more famous as a theosophist and Home Rule activist.

QUESTION 5
Though it is well known that Mahatma Gandhi was an important figure in the Indian National Congress scheme of things, he held the presidency only once. At which session was he elected the president?

QUESTION 6
Before Mallikarjun Kharge, who is the last individual not from the Nehru-Gandhi family to helm the party?



Visual Question:
Name this co-founder and first president of the Indian National Congress

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Louis Pasteur was responsible for disproving this theory that believed living creatures could arise from non-living matter and that such processes were commonplace and regular. Name this doctrine. **Ans: Spontaneous generation**
2. For what invention Pasteur is best known for. **Ans: He invented the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process now called pasteurization.**
3. What was Pasteur's most notable contribution to chemistry? **Ans: The molecular basis for the asymmetry of certain crystals**
4. What organic compound did he discover? **Ans: Sodium ammonium tartrate**
5. Pasteur proposed preventing the entry of micro-organisms into the human body. With this, he led Joseph Lister to develop antimicrobial substance methods in surgery. Name the substance. **Ans: Antiseptic**
6. Pasteur also introduced a vaccine for a disease that affected cattle. Name the disease. **Ans: Anthrax**
Visual: Identify this pioneer institute in India. **Ans: Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor**
Early Birds: M. K. Sudhakar | Pankaj Pandy | Swagat Kumar Nayak | Viswanathan Neelakantan | Thrisha Shyam

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your english

K. Subrahmanian

Mr. K. Srinivasan, Rajaji St., Guduvancheri, wants to know the meaning of 'take a message to Garcia'.

'To take a message to Garcia' is to do something courageously and resourcefully till one succeeds. During the Spanish-American War of 1898. Lieut Andrew Rowan made his way into Cuba despite great difficulties, and met General Callxto Garcia. Chief of the Cuban rebels and took a message from him to Washington. This is the story behind the expression.

Mr. U. Chandrasekher, BITS, Pilani, wants to know the meaning of floccinaucinihilipilification.

It means 'act or habit of estimating as worthless'. He condemns everything as being useless.

He is notorious for his floccinaucinihilipilification. This word is used jocularly. This is from 'flocci', 'nauci', at a trifle, 'nihili', at nothing, 'pill', at a hair, facere', to make.

His floccinaucinihilipilification annoys people. He doesn't have a good word for anything or anyone.

In some Indian languages, we say 'I don't care a hair for him'. The Romans seem to have had the same attitude to hair! Only bald people know the value of hair. Others take hair for granted!

Ms. Anamika, Near Jain Mandir, Gurgaon wants to know the difference between imprison and incarcerate.

Both mean to jail. But incarcerate Is a formal word. Both can be used literally and figuratively.

He imprisoned her in his mind.

They were incarcerated in this room.

There is a lot of energy incarcerated in his tiny body.

Ms. S. Singh, Nasik, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to play a good knife and fork'.

It means 'to eat heartily'. When you eat a lot and with zest, there is constant movement of your knife and fork. You appear to be playing with your knife and fork. In India, we eat heartily without a knife and fork. We do a vigorous five-finger exercise. Our way of eating prevents iron from entering into the soul!

Mr. R. Mahesh Narayanan, Periathambi Nadar Street, Pattiveeranpatti, wants to know whether we could 'brief someone in detail'.

To brief is to give necessary information or instructions. 'Brief and 'in detail' don't go together.

I briefed him on the matter.

Ms. S. A. Kaur. Chandigarh wants to know the meaning of 'A little bird told me...'

When you want to say that someone told you something but don't want to disclose the name of the person, you say, 'A little bird told me...' This is a jocular expression. It is not used on formal occasions. The expression is from the Bible: 'Curse not the king, no not in thy thought and curse not the rich man in thy bed chamber for a bird of the air shall carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter'. (Ecclesiastes, 10:20).

Published in The Hindu on July 17, 1990

Word of the day

Exacerbate:
to make (a problem, situation, or feeling) worse

Synonyms: intensify, add to, aggravate

Usage: *His comments have exacerbated tensions in the process.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/exacerbatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪgˈzæsəbeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HC quashes rape charges; makes man pay compensation to child as DNA test 'proves' him to be biological father

The HC notes that there is an ingredient for the offence of criminal intimidation as the accused, despite her marriage with another man, had continued a sexual relationship with her by threatening her that he would disclose their relationship to her husband

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While quashing a rape charge against a 25-year-old man, the High Court of Karnataka has directed him to pay ₹10,000 per month as maintenance to a child born to the victim due to his sexual acts with her as it was proved in the DNA test that he is the biological father of the child, and he had continued physical relationship with her despite her marriage with another man.

Noticing the nature of the prolonged sexual relationship between the accused man and the woman for over four years, the

FROM THE COURT

Court said the charge of rape cannot be sustained against him.

However, the Court directed that the accused, Raghavendraraddi will have to face the trial for the charges of cheating criminal intimidation as he, *prima facie*, only had the intention to have sexual relationship with her on the promise of marrying her and result of cheating is the birth of child.

The Court also noted that there is an ingredient for the offence of criminal intimidation as the accused, despite her marriage with another man, had continued a sexual relationship with her by threatening her that he would disclose their relationship to her husband.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on a petition filed by the accused questioning the criminal case registered against him by the victim in February 2023. The accused and victim were in love with each other since 2018 and it was stated in the complaint that the accused had intercourse with her on several occasions between 2018 and 2022 on the promise of marrying her.

However, she had to marry another man in 2021 on her parents' wish as the accused, at that time, did not come forward to marry her, the court noted while pointing out from the complaint that she refrained from having a sexual relationship with her husband as the accused threatened her of disclosing her relationship with him to the husband. While her relationship with her husband got strained, she gave birth to a girl child, the court noted.

Finally, she lodged a complaint against the accused after she came to know that he was preparing to marry another girl, the Court said while pointing out that "now she [victim] is left in lurch as she has neither the support of her husband due to strained relationship nor of the accused, who is wanting to marry another girl."

Test report

Meanwhile, the Court, from the DNA test report submitted by the police along with the charge sheet against the accused, found that the accused is the biological father and the victim is the biological mother of the child. The DNA test was conducted as the accused claimed that he was not the father of the child but the victim had categorically claimed that accused is child's father.

Observing that "the innocent child is caught in the crossfire between the accused and the complainant" the Court, in the peculiar facts case, said that the accused "cannot now show a hands off to the responsibility of the child which is born to him till the conclusion of the trial" while directing him to pay maintenance to the child till then.

Remarks against CM: FIR registered against Simmha

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

An FIR was registered against Mysuru MP Pratap Simmha for allegedly describing Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in derogatory terms.

Hours after the BJP MP used the derogatory terms while describing Mr. Siddaramaiah during an interaction with the media on the sidelines of Hanuma Jayanti programme in Hunsur on December 26, Congress workers gathered outside his office in Jaladarshini in Mysuru.

Movement of vehicles on the stretch of Hunsur Road outside Jaladarshini was disrupted for some time during the protest by Congress workers who shouted slogans against the MP and sought action against him for allegedly insulting the Chief Minister. In a complaint submitted to Devaraja police station, Mysuru district Congress Committee president B.J. Vijayakumar alleged that Mr Simmha had not only spoken derisively about the Chief Minister, but had also, without any basis, accused Mr Siddaramaiah of pitting one caste against another.

The Congress leader further alleged that the Mysuru MP was constantly making efforts to foment trouble between Hindus and Muslims. In view of the approaching elections to the Lok Sabha, Mr Vijaykumar accused Mr Pratap Simmha of conspiring to trigger communal riots and create unrest in society. Based on the complaint, the Devaraja police registered an FIR against Mr. Simmha on December 26 night under Section 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and Section 153 (provocation to the extent of causing riots) of the Indian Penal Code.

Food products to be developed from silkworm pupae for export market

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Mysuru-based Central Sericulture Research Training Institute (CSRTI) in Mysuru has joined hands with Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in the city to come out with a number of food products from silkworm pupae fit for human consumption.

With the silkworm rearing and reeling process generating several by-products, CSRTI director Gandhi Doss said the scientists of the Institute have been involved in studies related to developing technologies for appropriate utilisation of technology for use of by-products on a commercial scale.

Range of products

Recently, the scientists of the Institute worked alongside the food scientists from CFTRI to come out with a range of food products like cookies, pasta, mayonnaise, beverage mix and pickles from silkworm pupae. "Technology has been developed. We will shortly be carrying out large-scale trials for taste and sensory evaluation.

"We will also have to get approval from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)," CSRTI Scientist Dr. Yeruva Thirupathaiah told *The Hindu*. While much of the by-products of silkworm pupae like oil and animal feed are developed from spent pupae, the scientists used "fresh or green" pupa for coming out with food products for human consumption.

Even though natives of North East India like Assam consume "roasted and spiced" silkworm pupae as food items, CSRTI is looking to export the food products to countries like China, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries, where dishes made out of silkworm pupae are a traditional culinary item.

The development of cookies, pasta, mayonnaise, beverage mix and pickles out of silkworm pupae adds to the already available list of food items available for human consumption from the sericulture industry.

While mulberry fruit is already used for production of jams, jellies and red wine, mulberry leaves, which is mainly used for feeding silkworm, had gained importance for human consumption because of its medicinal values and is now used even for manufacturing mulberry tea

"Mulberry leaf is known for its rich source of antioxidants. It is believed to have anti-diabetic properties and used in the manufacture of mulberry green tea", said Dr. Thirupathaiah.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated December 28, we have a story on Jahnavi Phalkey, winner of the Infosys Prize 2023 for Humanities, who spoke on the inauguration of the Science Gallery Bengaluru and why human, social and natural sciences will have to work together as they bear relevance to how we study natural and human-induced phenomena.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 28, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- How Japan's moon-landing attempt in January will affect Chandrayaan-4 **bit.ly/moonsniper**
- Scientists are using fruit flies to find clues to Huntington's disease **bit.ly/huntingtonsflies**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 28		
RISE	06:40	SET 18:02
RISE	19:17	SET 07:44
FRIDAY, DEC. 29		
RISE	06:40	SET 18:03
RISE	20:11	SET 08:33
SATURDAY, DEC. 30		
RISE	06:41	SET 18:03
RISE	21:02	SET 09:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid.. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will remain cool.

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THE HINDU
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Temple to distribute 2L laddus to mark New Year

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Yoga Narasimhaswamy temple in the city will distribute two lakh laddus to mark the New Year on January 1 in continuation of its tradition started almost 40 years ago.

The temple authorities told media persons here on Wednesday that the practice of distributing laddu was initiated in 1994 by Bhashyam Swami and has continued without a break since then.

In all, 60 expert confectioners specialising in making traditional sweets have been roped in and are working round the clock under hygienic conditions to meet the target of preparing two lakh laddus, said S. Srinivasan, administrative officer of the temple located in Vijayanagar.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
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Tel: 080-25581238 www.apsbangalore.edu.in

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3. Primary Teacher (PRT) – All Subjects: For Primary Classes to teach all subjects. Qualification – Graduation with BEd at least 50% marks in each and qualified in CTET or TET with 60% marks.

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THE HINDU GROUP

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As Chennai once again immerses itself in the musical divinity of Margazhi, The Hindu brings you an opportunity to spellbind the greatest names in Indian classical music. Participate in The Hindu Margazhi Music Contest by sending in your videos and make a mark among the greats and win exciting prizes.

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Below 12 years	13-19 years	20-40 years

THE HINDU
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Last date: January 5, 2024

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Yatnal's charge: 'Central leaders will take action at an appropriate time'

The newly constituted BJP State office-bearers' team expresses concern that the senior leader's remarks were embarrassing the party and seeks action against the disgruntled leader

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stung by disgruntled leader Basanagouda Patil R. Yatnal's allegations that the erstwhile BJP regime led by B.S. Yediyurappa was involved in irregularities to the tune of ₹40,000 crore during COVID times, the newly constituted BJP State office-bearers team is learnt to have sought action against him.

Sources in the party said that several office-bearers, who participated in their first meeting held on Wednesday, expressed concern that the senior leader's remarks were embarrassing them as well as the party in

Basanagouda Patil R. Yatnal

public. Some of them even maintained that such remarks were turning out to be politically advantageous for the Congress as they were showing the BJP in poor light.

A large number of them are believed to have suggested that the party State unit should bring the issue to the notice of the Central leaders, requesting it to take disciplinary action to silence Mr. Yatnal. Some of the office-bearers even demanded that he should be ousted from the party itself.

Though the party State unit is yet to formally respond to such a demand, sources close to Mr. Vijayendra said the party State unit is likely to convey their sentiments to the Central leadership.

Meanwhile, when asked for the party's response to Mr. Yatnal's allegations, BJP State general secretary P. Rajiv told a press conference at the party office in Bengaluru that the office-bearers' meeting had discussed the issue in detail. Hinting that the party may act against Mr. Yatnal, he said: "The party would not tolerate statements and actions that affect its image. The office-bearers' meeting has discussed the issue. The party Central leaders will take suitable decision in this regard at suitable time."

It may be noted that Mr. Yatnal has been publicly criticising his political foe – Mr. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Vijayendra. However, the party State unit may now put the ball in the court of its Central leaders, if Mr. Rajiv's statement that the Central leadership would take an appropriate action is any indication.

Vijayendra asks party cadre not to take opponents lightly in LS polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra inaugurating the office-bearers' meeting in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Adopting a cautious path, newly appointed BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday asked the party cadre not to take their political opponents lightly in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections though he claimed that there was a wave in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the entire country, including Karnataka.

Addressing the first meeting of the newly constituted State office-bearers of the BJP in Bengaluru, Mr. Vijayendra urged the party cadre to understand that every election would be different and throw up different kind of challenges.

"In a bid to overcome those challenges, we should not take our opponents lightly," he said.

At the same time, he said there was a dire need to send a strong message that Karnataka is the strong base for BJP in southern India by winning all the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

He called upon party workers to create public awareness about various development schemes taken up by the Narendra Modi government.

He further asked the party cadre to set their eyes on the forthcoming elections to the Zilla/Taluk Panchayats and BBMP and Legislative Council in a bid to strengthen the organisation.

Telling the new office-bearers that they had been given organisational posts at a crucial time when the party was getting ready for the Lok Sabha polls, he said they had important responsibility to execute.

Meanwhile, briefing media-persons after the meeting, BJP State general secretary P. Rajiv said a team of 60 leaders would be formed to take up appointment of district level office-bearers.

He said the team would take up State tour for two days and complete the task of appointments within two to three days after the tour in consultation with prominent leaders.

Datta Jayanti: Some people raise insensitive, provocative slogans atop Bababudangiri

Sathish G.T.
CHIKKAMAGALURU

Some of the slogans that a few people visiting the cave shrine atop Bababudangiri in Chikkamagaluru taluk raised on Tuesday left policemen and government officials on duty upset.

The visitors, a majority of whom were in the age group of 20 to 30, raised slogans that were critical of policemen, insensitive to women, and targeted people of a particular religion.

Around 13,000 people from Chikkamagaluru and neighbouring districts visited Sri Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swamy Dargah, the shrine, on the final day of the three-day Datta Jayanti celebrations.

Along the route and even after reaching the shrine, they raised slogans hailing Datta and Rama. Besides them, they had many rhyming couplets that were provocative in nature.

Devotees participating in the Datta Jayanti celebrations atop Bababudangiri in Chikkamagaluru taluk on Tuesday. SATHISH G.T.

A teenage girl, who was with other devotees in queue to enter the cave shrine, was visibly upset when the crowd surrounding her shouted an obnoxious two-liner.

Another group of people, all clad in saffron, were seen doing rounds on the shrine premises, chanting objectionable slogans. Nobody stopped them. They ignored policemen, who subtly told them to stop raising such slogans.

"This conduct is highly deplorable," said a police official posted at the entrance of the shrine. "The slogans they chant are not only insensitive but provocative too. They have no idea how the women and girls around them are feeling after hearing such slogans," he said.

As the chant of slogans continued unabated, a senior police official sent an instruction to policemen with video cameras to record the sloganeering.

An official of the Revenue Department, who was disturbed after listening to the slogans, felt, "I wish someone had made videos of youths raising such slogans and shown them to their family members."

She was hoping that the parents would discipline them for their conduct.

A couple of former Ministers, legislators, former legislators and seers attended the event. None of them raised objections at the slogans.

Most of the devotees, who came by two-wheelers, were violating the helmet rule. Though they were crossing the narrow and risky road to reach the shrine, they showed scant regard for safety. Similarly, many travelled sitting on the roofs of buses.

The police expressed concern that travelling on the roof was highly risky, given the terrain. The police took note of all these things.

However, they did not penalise or stop them, as their primary objective was to ensure the event goes smooth without any untoward incidents.

A group of people, heading towards the cave shrine, picked up an argument with two policemen posted at a dargah at Santaveri in Tarikere taluk early in the morning. They allegedly attempted to defile the religious place, warranting a suo motu case by the police.

When *The Hindu* contacted Vikram Amathe, the SP of Chikkamagaluru, he said the police had installed CCTV cameras at all places, including checkposts at different locations in the district. "Our men have monitored every incident and the conduct of the people, who participated in the event. We are engaged in analysing them. Proper actions will follow," he said.

The cave shrine has been a disputed site over the decades. For years, it has been venerated by both Hindus and Muslims. Following the demand by pro-Hindu groups to declare it a Hindu place of worship, the issue went up to the Supreme Court. It remains unresolved. Every year, pro-Hindu groups Vishwa Hindu Parishat, Bajrang Dal, and Srirama Sene hold Datta Jayanti celebrations. Muslim families do observe Urs.

CM tells officials to check female foeticide, child marriages

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during his visit to Kolar for a review meeting on Wednesday. Ministers B.S. Suresh (left) and M.C. Sudhakar are seen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday directed the police and Women and Child Welfare Department officials to take steps to ensure prevention of female foeticide and child marriages in the State.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who reviewed the progress of various departments in Kolar, told the police to register an FIR against all those indulged in female foeticide racket in the district. The Chief Minister also told senior officials of the district to take steps to improve human index indicators of the district.

The State government has ordered a Criminal Investigation Department probe into illegal abortions in private hospitals/clinics in the State following a large number of female foeticide cases being reported from Mysuru and Mandya districts.

He said there was no problem with drinking water in the district, though six taluks of the district have been declared drought-hit. No tankers have been pressed into service in the district for supplying drinking water so far. The Chief Minister recently inaugurated Yaragol dam, built to ensure supply of water to Kolar, Bangarpet and Malur taluks of Kolar district.

The dam has been built near Yaragol village in Bangarpet taluk as part of a project worth ₹308.46 crore.

He instructed the Deputy Commissioner and other senior officials not to grant permission for digging borewells, except in special circumstances. The groundwater level in the district has improved following filling of tanks of the district under the KC Valley project, he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said there was no shortage of fodder in the district. He noted the absence of officials during office hours and instructed officials to reside in the district headquarters and make available their services to the people.

The Chief Minister instructed tahsildars to clear all pending files within six months of their acceptance. Laxity on the part of the officials, delay in issue of khatas and surveys led to land disputes, he said.

Deve Gowda welcomes increase in MSP for copra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> The MSP for milling copra has been increased by ₹300 per quintal and for ball copra by ₹250 for 2024. This Cabinet decision comes as a relief to farmers. I thank the Prime Minister.
>
> **H.D. DEVE GOWDA**
> Former Prime Minister

As the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of milling copra at ₹11,160 per quintal and ball copra at ₹12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season, former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda welcomed the decision.

"The MSP for milling copra has been increased by ₹300 per quintal and for ball copra by ₹250 for 2024. This Cabinet decision comes as a relief to farmers. I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said on social media platform X. Incidentally, Janata Dal (Secular) and Congress legislators had clashed in the recently held legislature session at Belagavi over the MSP for farmers, who are in distress due to fall of prices.

Milling copra is used to extract oil, while ball/edible copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka, a PIB release said.

In the last 10 years, the government has increased MSP for milling copra and ball copra from ₹5,250 per quintal and ₹5,500 per quintal in 2014-15 to ₹11,160 per quintal and ₹12,000 per quintal in 2024-25, registering a growth of 113% and 118%, respectively, it added.

The release said that in the current season 2023, the government has procured a record amount of more than 1.33 lakh tonnes of copra, at the cost of ₹1,493 crore, benefiting around 90,000 farmers. The procurement in the current season 2023 indicates a rise of 227% over the previous season (2022).

A higher MSP will not only ensure better remunerative returns to the coconut growers but also incentivise farmers to expand copra production to meet the growing demand for coconut products both domestically and internationally.

BEO caught taking bribe

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Lokayukta Police caught Hemanth Raju, Block Education Officer of Mudigere, red-handed while taking a bribe of ₹10,000 from a woman to recommend her for a compensatory job following her husband's death.

Chikkamagaluru Lokayukta Inspector Anil Rathod and his staff were acting on a complaint by a woman whose husband, a teacher in a government school, died on May 15.

The woman had submitted an application seeking a job on compensatory grounds.

The BEO and his assistant, Basheer Ahmed, had demanded ₹15,000 to recommend her name for the job. As she requested them to reduce the bribe amount, he brought it down to ₹10,000.

Audio proof

The complainant had audio proof of the conversation. Later, she filed a complaint with the police.

THE TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED,
AAVIN ILLAM, 3-A, NANDANAM, CHENNAI-600035. TELEPHONE : 044-23464500,
FAX :044-23464505, E-MAIL: AAVINDGMENG@YAHOO.CO.IN
Ref. No:13866/Proj.5/2023 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Submission Only)** Dated: 27.12.2023

The TCMPF Ltd., invites **TWO PART TENDERS** by way of **e-Submission through eProcurement Portal** from the reputed Manufacturers / Suppliers for following items / works for TCMPF/DCMPU Dairies under Federation / Union Own Funds / Schemes:-

Sl. No.	Name of the works / Items	EMD Value
1.	Fixing Rate Contract for Cloud based Milk Analyser – 2804 Nos. for various DCMPU	Rs.17,00,000/-
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3.	Fixing Rate Contract for IoT Device for AMCU & DPMCU -1926 Nos. for various DPMCUs	Rs.1,90,000/-
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The bidders should submit their bids only through eProcurement Portal **(https://tntenders.gov.in).**
All other details can be seen in the tender documents, the tender documents can be downloaded at the above website. Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

	Tender Document Availability	E-Submission End Date	Technical Bid opening Date
For S.No.1 & 2	29.12.2023 to 28.01.2024 upto 2.30 PM	28.01.2024 at 2.30 PM	29.01.2024 at 3.00 PM
For S.No.3 & 4	29.12.2023 to 18.01.2024 upto 2.30 PM	18.01.2024 at 2.30 PM	19.01.2024 at 3.00 PM

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Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/PB/ 2228/2023-24 Dated: 21.12.2023	₹ 56,99,306/- / ₹ 1,34,600/-	11.01.2024 upto 4:00 pm	16.01.2024 after 3:00 pm
2.	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/PB/ 2229/2023-24 Dated: 21.12.2023	₹ 25,51,881/- / ₹ 60,300/-	11.01.2024 upto 4:00 pm	16.01.2024 after 3:00 pm
3.	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/PB/ 2230/2023-24 Dated: 21.12.2023 (3rd Call)	₹ 33,52,510/- / ₹ 67,100/-	03.01.2024 upto 4:00 pm	05.01.2024 after 3:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)		
4.	South West -2	BWSSB/EESW-2/ TO/PB/2519/2023-24 Dated: 20.12.2023 (2nd Call)	₹ 4,76,324/- / ₹ 12,000/-	03.01.2024 upto 3:00 pm	05.01.2024 after 12:00 noon
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West - 2)		

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/2721/2023-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Shri T. K. Krishnaswamy Thathachari (T. K. Kannan)
Prathama Acharya Purusha, TTD & Managing Trustee of TSVKC trust
Attained Acharyan Tiruvadi on 27.12.23.
Funeral @ 10.00 am on 29.12.23 at Tirupati.
Deeply mourned by the entire T.K. Family

DR.S. SRIBALA
14 -07-1941 - 27-12- 2023
Director (Retd) Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Studies in Mathematics
University of Madras
Daughter of Late P.Subramaniam and Late T.Bhavani Devi
Bereaved by Sisters, Balasaraswathi, Kasthuri, Rohini
Brother Swaminathan,
Sister-in-law Radha &
Nephew Ganapathy
Tel: 044 24341691
Mobile: 87545 99739

A marriage of history and science, and why we need it today

'Social and natural sciences will have to work together as they bear relevance to what and how we study natural and human-induced phenomena'

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

On a weekday, as the morning peak traffic tapers off on the usually busy Ballari Road in North Bengaluru, Jahnavi Phalkey, the Founding Director of Science Gallery Bengaluru, sits in her office overlooking an African Tulip tree that offers a sense of calm despite feverish construction activity on the premises. The Gallery is gearing up for a formal inauguration soon.

Jahnavi Phalkey. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Part of international network

Science Gallery Bengaluru is part of an international network of university owned exhibition galleries that bring together artists and scholars for public engagement with science, and the only one in Asia.

"Two things set us apart from our contemporaries: I have pioneered a Public Lab Complex with seven experimental spaces to deliver collaboration between scholars from the human, social, and natural sciences; and practitioners from art, design and engineering."

"The second is an incremental idea - one where exhibitions become an anchor for a full-blown Research Festival that brings together the same set of scholars and practitioners but with an explicit goal to make research legible in everyday life. With this, Science Gallery Bengaluru becomes a bridge between research and the public," she says. This sets the tone for the conversation, given that Jahnavi was recently declared the winner of the Infosys Prize 2023 for Humanities. According to the Infosys Science Foundation, Jahnavi was chosen for her "brilliant and granular insights into the individual, institutional, and material histories of scientific research in modern India." Each prize carries a prize of a gold medal, a citation and a purse of USD 100,000 (or its equivalent in Rupees).

"Her book The Atomic State and many articles insightfully braid the global history of science, especially nuclear science, with the anthropology of the postcolonial state to illuminate rich and textured histories of the everyday lives of science in India," the foundation said.

Young discipline

Though it has been around for a while, History of Science is a relatively young discipline, she says. "Regrettably, we do not have a degree programme in history of science at a university nor is the discipline professionalised sufficiently in India. We have, of course, several good scholars spread across the country who practice the discipline since the late 1980s, but we are yet to converge as a field," she says.

Given the increasing number of scholars trained in the United States and Europe who are returning to India, this will happen in the next few years as the field expands to include not only history, philosophy, and sociology of science, but also newer fields like Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Science Policy Studies, she adds. Talking about the process that led to her book, The Atomic State, she recalled how during her course work in the doctoral programme at the Georgia Institute of Technology, she was almost always frustrated by the fact that they studied primarily European and American histories as if any science that happened elsewhere - especially in the twentieth century - was incidental.

"My book started out as a doctoral thesis about the beginnings of experimental nuclear physics in India. I have traced the fortunes of three laboratories (then Calcutta, Bangalore and Bombay) through three transitions: India from imperial rule to political independence, and therefore of state formation; of experimental physics from table top to large systems and budgets; and a word order that transformed from European imperialism to a Cold War between two new superpowers - the United States and the Soviet Union," she explained.

What were the major standouts when we talk about post-colonial science? "The Second World War, and the Cold War that followed, transformed the relationship between science and the state in irreversible ways. With the use of atomic weapons in 1945 - scientific research, sovereignty, and international relations became intertwined inextricable ways across the globe," she says.

Launch of Sputnik

Another such moment was the launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union in 1957 - ten years after Indian Independence - which accelerated the race for cutting edge dual use technologies between the two super powers. Scientific research thus came to be deeply implicated in the making of state structures in free India, she further said.

From someone who has straddled both worlds in a sense - science and humanities - does she think the distinctions between them have faded in today's world? While acknowledging that the cultural hierarchy between professionals in the human and social sciences, and the natural sciences is "detrimentally strong in India," she says: "If climate change is the biggest challenge of our times, and artificial intelligence and gene-editing technologies are interesting outcomes of research and engineering - we can no longer organise our present or anticipate futures where we do not collectively question our relationship to fundamental knowledge. In this task, the human, social and natural sciences will have to work together because they all bear relevance to what and how we study natural and human-induced phenomena."

The launch of Sputnik accelerated the race for cutting edge dual use technologies between the two super powers

Governor commends sports stars as source of inspiration for youth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Governor of Karnataka, Thaawarchand Gehlot, asserted that sports stars, achieving national and international acclaim, serve as a driving force and inspiration for the youth. He made these remarks as the chief guest during an award ceremony organised by the Karnataka Olympics Association on Tuesday at the glass house of the Raj Bhavan. Highlighting the pivotal role of sports in India's progress, the Governor emphasised the significance of nurturing the talent and advancement of sports stars, referring to the youth as the future champions responsible for enhancing the glory of the Tricolour.

He acknowledged India's newfound identity in the global sports arena and expressed confidence that the hard work of athletes would yield even greater results in the future.

Mr. Gehlot underscored the importance of upholding the spirit and decorum of the game, stating that winners truly become great players when society finds inspiration in their every action.

Intense competition

In the current era of intense competition, he urged young athletes to keep these values in mind, emphasizing the need for collective interest and encouragement from players, parents, and citizens. Speaking on initiatives to promote sports, Mr. Gehlot commended the Sports Authority of India, working under the Union Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Government of Karnataka for their effective schemes and support for sports activities.

MG Motor India partners with Zeon Electric

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MG Motor India, a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, on Wednesday, signed an MoU with Zeon Electric Private Limited to boost the current electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the country.

With this, MG hopes to address a widespread need for a robust charging infrastructure to support the growing fleet of electric vehicles, said a press release.

This partnership will be focused on strengthening the EV ecosystem at key locations, covering highways, cities, and MG dealerships in many States including Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

Zeon's over 300 AC and DC chargers in key locations will be added to MG's current network of 12,000 chargers so far.

Gaurav Gupta, Deputy Managing Director, MG Motor India, said, "This strategic alliance with Zeon Electric underscores our dedication to sustainable mobility and our commitment to delivering a seamless electric vehicle ownership experience for our customers."

Kartikeyan Palanisamy, Founder of Zeon, said, "This partnership is a testament to our shared vision for a greener and more sustainable future in the electric vehicle space. Together, we are committed to establishing a cutting-edge charging infrastructure that prioritizes convenience and reliability for vehicle owners."

Milli-second burst from a magnetar detected by AstroSat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AstroSat, India's first multi-wavelength space-based observatory, has detected bright sub-second X-ray bursts from a new and unique neutron star with an ultrahigh magnetic field (magnetar). This is expected to help understand the intriguing extreme astrophysical conditions of magnetars.

"Magnetars are neutron stars having an ultrahigh magnetic field that are much stronger than the terrestrial magnetic field. Simply put, the magnetic field of a magnetar is over one quadrillion times stronger than the magnetic field of Earth," the Department of Science and Technology said.

Decay of magnetic field

What powers the emission of high-energy electromagnetic radiation in them is the decay of magnetic fields in these objects. Besides, magnetars display strong temporal variability, typically including a slow rotation, a rapid spin-down, bright but short bursts going on up to months-long outbursts.

One such magnetar called SGR J1830-0645, was discovered in October 2020 by NASA's Swift spacecraft. It is relatively young (about 24,000 years) and an isolated neutron star.

Motivated to study the magnetar and explore its characteristics in broadband X-ray energies with AstroSat, scientists from the Raman Research Institute (RRI) and University of Delhi performed the timing and spectral analysis of this magnetar using two instruments onboard AstroSat - the Large Area X-Ray Proportional Counter (LAXPC) and Soft X-Ray telescope (SXT).

X-ray bursts

"One of the key findings was the detection of 67 short sub-second X-ray bursts, with an average duration of 33 milliseconds. Of these bursts, the brightest one lasted for about 90 milliseconds," said Rahul Sharma, the paper's lead author and a post-doctoral fellow at RRI, an autonomous institute funded by the Department of Science and Technology.

IISc Bengaluru faculty selected as EMBO global investigator for 2023

Dr. Debasis Das, Assistant Professor, is among the scientists to have been selected for his project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A member of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) faculty has been selected as one of the 10 European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Global Investigators in 2023 for his project on enzymatic dispersion of biofilms to combat biofilm-mediated microbial infections.

Dr. Debasis Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry is among the scientists to have been selected to join the EMBO Global Investigator Network, an initiative that enables excellent early-stage group leaders based in Chile, India, Singapore and Taiwan, to access a wide range of collaboration, networking, and training activities.

A serious threat

"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by pathogenic microbes is a serious threat to human health.

The Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We have been working on reversing antibiotic resistance of pathogenic bacteria. Biofilm is a major line of microbial defense against drugs, and a prime virulence factor for chronic diseases," Dr. Das told *The Hindu*.

Biofilm-associated conditions are ubiquitous, manifested as soft tissue infections, and on medical implants.

"Using enzymes, we are preventing biofilm formation and degrading preformed biofilms. We are developing the first-in-kind enzyme-antibiotic combination therapy for the facile treatment of biofilm-associated infections in humans," Dr. Das said.

His work would benefit millions of people, particularly Indian citizens, who suffer from various biofilm-associated infections, and would improve their day-to-day lives.

"Being selected as one of the EMBO Global Investigators would tremendously help us expedite the work and take our invention to the global stage."

"The EMBO platform would help us connect with leading scientists worldwide, build a global network, visit state-of-the-art laboratories, and initiate productive collaborations," he explained.

On neurodegenerative disorders

According to EMBO, the selected scientists explore fundamental research questions relating to neurodegenerative disorders, drug-resistant bacteria, precision immunology, leaf epidermal development, single-cell proteomics, and other fields.

Dr. Das said that EMBO would provide funds to visit other institutions, attend, speak at, and organise scientific meetings, participate in various training programs, and invite members of EMBO's communities for lectures, and engage in scientific discussions.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 28, 1973

Bangalore to Have Cauvery Water by January End

Bangalore: The Cauvery water will start flowing to Bangalore by the end of next month.

The Transport and Housing Minister, Mr. K.H. Ranganath, who is in charge of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, told newsmen that the work of bringing the Cauvery water to Bangalore in stages spread over the next four weeks had begun.

He said that the Government was also actively considering the execution of the second stage of Cauvery water Supply Project costing about Rs. 30 crores in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Discussions had taken place with the Planning Commission in this connection. The second stage would provide an additional 30 million gallons of water daily to the city.

The first stage, which was almost complete, cost Rs. 35.72 crores and would add 30 million gallons a day to the City's distribution system. A part of the work connected with the second stage had also been executed along with the first stage. Provision for additional pipelines and other works had been made.

Mr. Ranganath said that the gravity main from Netkal balancing reservoir to Thorekadanahalli, an important component of the first stage of the project, had been commissioned four days ago. The clarifloculators (water purifying equipment) and the filter house at Thorekadanahalli treatment works would be pumped to Bangalore on January 2.

Thereafter water would be allowed in the 78 km main in three stages from Thorekadanahalli to Bangalore via Harohalli and Tatgundi. Each stage would take about one week. The Minister said that all the motors in the pumping stations were under trial run and were giving satisfactory performance.

CITYBEATS

A funky ensemble

DECEMBER 31
Ring in the new year with a celebration, which will feature the Many Roots Ensemble. The evening will be a blend of West African, Middle Eastern, funk, jazz, RnB and hip-hop tunes. *At Windmills, Whitefield.*

All things Bollywood

ONGOING
Dishkeyaun, a Bollywood restaurant with lounge experience, is now open in Bengaluru. With a centrepiece of bronze sculptures capturing the iconic pose of Bollywood's golden couple, Raj Kapoor and Nargis, from the movie *Shree 420*, the place pays homage to the DNA of Indian cinema. *At Brigade Road, Forum Rex Walk*

Pizza mania

ONGOING
Roxie unveils India's longest gourmet pizza menu with 52 varieties. From classic margherita pizza, maliziosa, black gold pizza, these come topped with mushrooms, artichokes, lamb pepperoni sausages, honey wood-smoked baby bacon and more. They are priced ₹650 onwards. *Roxie is on Sarjapur Road*

Wee bit tipsy

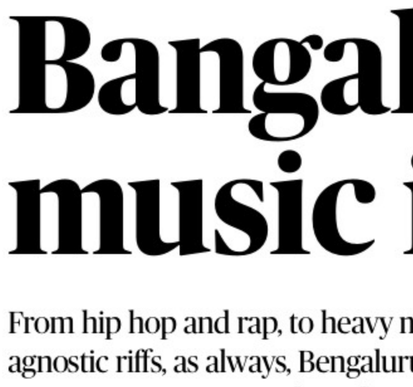
DECEMBER 31
The Drawing Room at Smoke House Deli presents Tipsy Jazz evenings, will feature a performance by Anjana. She is also trained in Carnatic music, Western musical theatre and Western classical music. *The Drawing Room at Smoke House Deli, can be contacted on 8657738861.*

The best of Bangalorean music in 2023

From hip hop and rap, to heavy metal and rock, and some genre agnostic riffs, as always, Bengaluru has played host an amazing sonic range. Here are some of our favorites from city-based musicians

Anurag Tagat

The years of the lockdown may have become a distant memory at this point, given how much music is thriving from our systems and stages alike in the city. True to its nature, some of the best releases this year still carried the wisdom and learnings from the pandemic about life and the nature of the world around us. Here are just some of our favorites from city-based musicians.



Tanya Shanker – *What Lies Beneath*
Teenaged singer-songwriter Tanya Shanker – working with her mentor, producer Richard Andrew Dudley – created a snapshot of times growing up and the observations of the world around her on her second album *What Lies Beneath*. Through powerhouse R&B, pop and even a bit of hip-hop, there are songs like 'Soft Boi' which give us more nuance to Gen Z narratives than we might know.

Aditi Ramesh – 'Filter Coffee'
Aditi Ramesh started off the year with a song that plays to her strengths as an artist who strives to make timeless music. 'Filter Coffee' with his buoyant, dance floor-friendly sound was a way for Ramesh to revel in the joys of filter coffee, a beverage that perhaps signifies comfort and familiarity to her, albeit, with advise of how to live in the moment, something that was reinforced after the lockdowns.

Huyana – *Anxious Attachments*
Although now based in the Netherlands, singer-songwriter Huyana aka Varshita Ramesh's debut EP *Anxious Attachments* is an outcome of her times living in Bengaluru. Working with artists like keyboardist-producer Derek Mathias, the EP was all soul, R&B and pop fed through some grandiose arrangements as well as relatable stories of relationships.

Natauku – '11 Days'
If Indian singer-songwriters – and those aspiring to be artists – have proved anything over the years, it's that you can say a lot with just the strum of the ukulele. Natauku aka Natasha Caroll has the instrument in her roots (and in her artist moniker) and she delights on '11 Days', a soulful and satirical takedown of tech-obsessed times

RANJ x Clifr – *Antihero* **EP**
Even if their song 'Attached' is still making its presence felt in Indian independent music, RANJ aka Ranjani Ramadoss and Clifr aka Clipher Christopher have their feet planted in a more genre-agnostic space, as their EP *Antihero* shows us. There's quickfire rap in the way that few others can pull off, house-meets-hip hop sonic treatments and more to cement the duo's place as creative forces out to break boundaries.

Brodha V – 'Basti Bounce'
One of Indian hip-hop's favourites, Brodha V does not miss on 'Basti Bounce,' which served up another distinctive reminder of the rapper's roots and his place in this fast-evolving scene. It helps that it came with a funny music video featuring his friends in JordIndian and a returning cameo from Aishwarya Suresh Bindra. It is a sort of spiritual successor to Brodha V's equally playful song 'Vainko', sort of creating a Brodha-verse, if you will.

Abhi Tambe – *Portal Waiting* **EP**
Singer-songwriter Abhi Tambe's *Portal Waiting* EP was performed across the city as a new, theatrical form of storytelling , which was part Sci-Fi and almost ethno-musical in its intent. With a couple of music videos for the rock riff-charged 'All Aboard' and 'Adoria' *Portal Waiting* became something that people could experience attached to a narrative as well as independent of it.

Hanumankind, Parimal Shais – 'Go To Sleep'
Ask us about the cannot-fail rapper-producer pairing in Indian hip-hop and we will point to Hanumankind and Parimal Shais right away. While that is not to say that they have not put out hits on their own or with other artists, 'Go To Sleep' is one of their best works yet. A gritty yet vulnerable song where Hanumankind lays out all his troubles, Shais adds an infectious South Indian folk-sampled hook to make it stick.

Sharath Narayan – 'Anthinilavin'
While rock band Black Letters had their own world-wise song 'Simpler Times' come out this year, their vocalist-guitarist and producer Sharath Narayan took a step into a new solo dominion with songs in Malayalam, Tamil and Hindi. Among the most notable remained the January release 'Anthinilavin' for its funky guitars, bright electronic elements and sublime vocals.

Inner Sanctum – 'The Face of Evil'
In a transition like never before, metal band Inner Sanctum and their vocalist Gaurav Basu parted ways and marked it with the release of their final song together, 'The Face of Evil'. Basu – who is also an illustrator and graphic design artist under the name Acid Toad – runs riot on this charged up song that warns of the gradual takeover and seemingly unstoppable grasp of divisive forces.

Bryden & Parth – *Chameleon World*
When the duo of guitarist, vocalist, songwriter Bryden Lewis and flautist-composer Parth Chandiramani released their independent album *Chameleon World*, they brought things back to their love of independent music. The result was sublime fusion, groovy rock, heartfelt folk stories and more.

Rainburn – *Vignettes*
Working as a trio now, progressive rock band Rainburn took listeners through all their gripes, saving graces and intolerances about the world as they saw it on their album *Vignettes*. Sonically, there was a more modern prog and metal edge to their sound, along with always-relevant stories about pop culture, authority figures and more.

You got a date

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

The end of the year is nigh and it is time for resolutions, calendars and journals.

Here are some options. Jonathan David always had a deep affection for dogs, which led him to adopt Lily, an indie who recently celebrated her 14th birthday.

"Alongside my role as a research scientist at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, where I specialize in developing molecular diagnostic tests for canine diseases, I have cultivated my artistic side as a freelance charcoal pet artist," says Jonathan.

Every year, Jonathan compiles a calendar, wall and desktop, featuring the dogs sketched from the previous year. These fun, expressive pictures come with a quote written by Jonathan's sister, Abigail. "I support Charlie Animal Rescue Centre (CARE) and allocate 10% of my profits from the sale of these calendars to CARE."

The desktop calendar for ₹399 and wall calendar for ₹499 are available on Jonathan's instagram handle (charcoalart96) or you can call/message 9353707754.

Let's Live Together Animal NGO in Bengaluru celebrates the spirit of indie dogs with a desktop calendar featuring paintings by Bengaluru-based artist, Gumi Malhotra. There are two sets on offer. One set featuring a calendar, bookmark, and a greeting card for ₹650 (including nationwide shipping) and another which includes one calendar, four bookmarks, four greeting cards, and a notebook with puppy paintings for ₹1,500. Orders will be shipped from January 8, 2024. Mail llt.shop2save@gmail.com for details.

Write stuff
If you would like to take a pen and put your random thoughts on paper, Kanika Jain Gupta's journal, Zindagi Gulzar Hai, might be the ticket. The undated journal, Kanika says, celebrates the journey of life. "It helps you pen your goals, gratitude and to-do lists. I have been making notes and journaling and this practice has helped me gain clarity," says the Bengaluru-based graphic designer and JJ School of Art topper. The journal is part of series that includes a Love Letters to Krishna and a Japa Diary. Zindagi Gulzar Hai comes with inspirational quotes (from Rumi and Albert Einstein to Saint Augustine), a space for a to-do list, wins of the day and things you are grateful for on the day.

The journal costs ₹990 and is available on theiktaaralife.com

A touch of humanity Calendars from Jonathan David and Let's Live Together.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telangana govt. to start outreach to people

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The stage is set for the launch of 'Praja Palana', taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, on Thursday. The programme has been conceived as the people, especially those from remote and far-flung areas, are experiencing difficulties in meeting officials to represent their grievances and seek their redressal. The Telangana government has decided to reach out to the helpless and extend help to them through 'Praja Palana'.

According to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government was not available to the people in the past 10 years and governance had not reached them. The hardship people faced in submitting their grievances could be seen from the huge number of applications received during the Praja Vani programme, prompting the government to take governance to the people.

The programme, spanning eight working days between December 28 and January 6, envisages official teams visiting two villages a day and receiving applications from the people in a prescribed format during the gram sabhas in the respective villages.

The Chief Minister formally unveiled the logo, application form and message relating to "Praja Palana" in the presence of his deputy Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Cabinet Ministers, and senior officials.

Ammonia leak from pipeline triggers scare at night in Chennai

Fifty-two people hospitalised; Tamil Nadu government orders temporary closure of fertilizer unit

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After an oil spill triggered by the recent cyclone, Ennore in north Chennai was in for another shock as hundreds of residents woke up with burning eyes and faces and difficulty breathing after ammonia gas leaked from an underwater supply pipeline to a fertilizer plant late on Tuesday night.

M.E. Selvam of Periyakuppam said that around 10.30 p.m., people returning home from nearby industrial units could not take the beach road where the pipeline is located.

Hundreds of residents came out of their homes and were moved to safer places. A total of 52 people were hospitalised. Teams from the police and fire services rushed to the spot to evacuate people willing to move out. Residents of Chinnakuppam, Eranavur, Nethaji Colony and Nettukuppam too complained of uneasiness.

Lucky escape: Residents of the Periyakuppam fishing hamlet near Ennore in Chennai took to the streets as a few of them fell ill following an ammonia gas leak late on Tuesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

After the industrial accident, the Tamil Nadu government ordered a temporary shutdown of Coromandel International Ltd., the fertilizer plant. State Environment Minister Siva V. Meyyanathan said the unit had been directed to shut down until further orders.

The company, in a statement, said that as part of a routine operation, it noticed the abnormality at 11.30 p.m. in the ammonia unloading subsea pipeline near the shoreside outside the plant. The ammonia system facility was isolated and the situation was brought to normalcy.

Residents of Periyakuppam, who came back to their homes by Wednesday afternoon, sat on a protest demanding permanent closure of the company. Shobhana, a resident, said that if people had not been woken up in the middle of the night, many would have died in their sleep.

The State government has constituted an expert committee comprising the Member-Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), experts from various institutions, including the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health. A rapid assessment report within 24 hours and a detailed report within three days have been sought.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense to very dense fog likely in many/some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh; Dense fog in likely at isolated pockets of north Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and west Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	15.1	Kozhikode	—	34.5	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.9	16.0	Kurnool	—	32.7	18.7
Aizawl	—	27.4	14.0	Lucknow	—	22.6	10.0
Allahabad	—	23.8	11.4	Madurai	—	32.7	22.5
Bengaluru	—	28.9	16.0	Mangaluru	—	33.8	21.2
Bhopal	—	29.2	12.8	Mumbai	—	34.0	19.8
Bhubaneswar	—	29.5	17.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	18.0
Chandigarh	—	24.8	9.0	New Delhi	—	22.0	7.8
Chennai	—	30.4	22.8	Patna	—	25.7	13.1
Coimbatore	—	30.8	19.2	Port Blair	—	31.3	26.8
Dehradun	—	25.8	8.4	Puducherry	—	30.2	22.2
Gangtok	—	16.4	8.7	Pune	—	31.3	15.6
Goa	—	35.2	21.3	Raipur	—	29.2	15.6
Guwahati	—	28.4	13.4	Ranchi	—	25.0	12.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.1	7.6
Hyderabad	—	29.4	17.5	Shimla	—	16.5	7.6
Imphal	—	23.3	8.6	Srinagar	—	8.2	-2.6
Jaipur	—	26.3	10.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	23.3
Kochi	—	32.8	24.6	Tiruchi	—	33.1	21.6
Kohima	—	16.8	7.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	21.6
Kolkata	—	27.0	17.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	68	18	224	157	
Bengaluru	4	31	50	68	105	
Chennai	6	33	56	69	72	
Delhi	10	95	107	478	465	
Hyderabad	7	25	49	231	—	
Kolkata	12	86	19	243	168	
Lucknow	9	47	36	294	192	
Mumbai	23	111	33	240	184	
Pune	118	175	111	232	144	
Visakhapatnam	12	55	46	132	116	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 389 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mandalam season draws to a close, temple to reopen on December 30

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The 41-day annual Mandalam pilgrimage season at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple drew to a close on Wednesday.

The rituals were led by chief priest (Tantri) Kandararu Mahesh Mohanaru. The Mandala Puja was performed between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday. Prior to the puja, the presiding deity was adorned with *Thanka Anki*, the golden attire brought to the temple in a ceremonial procession.

The temple was closed by 11 p.m. on Wednesday and is scheduled to be opened for the Makaravilakku festival on December 30. *Petta Thullal* at Erumely will be held on January 12, while the customary procession carrying the *Thiruvabharanam* to Sabarimala will set off from Pandalam a day later. The Makaravilakku day falls on January 15 and the Ayyappa temple will be closed after the customary holy darshan permitted exclusively to the royal representative on January 21 morning.

Heavy rush of devotees

Meanwhile, the pilgrimage zone from Nilackal to the Sannidhanam continued to witness heavy rush of devotees on Wednesday morning. The crowd which had reached Pampa in the morning waited up to seven hours to reach the 18 holy steps at the Sannidhanam. With the queues extending up to the Sabaripeedom, the police had a tough time regulating the crowd. The inflow, however, moderated considerably after 9.30 a.m.

Acknowledging a perceptible rise in pilgrim inflow when the temple reopens for the Makaravilakku season, Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan has directed the departments concerned to augment the facilities in the pilgrimage zone.

Four booked for provoking wild tusker

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

The Forest Department has registered a case against four youth after visuals of them provoking a wild tusker, locally called Padayappa, to take photos and videos at Chokkanad, near Munnar, on Tuesday went viral.

Munnar range officer Arun Maharaja said the Forest Department had registered a case against the youth under the Wildlife Protection Act.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-2/22/2023-24 Dated: 27-12-2023
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, in Two Cover System for Approved Action Plan Works Under Zilla Panchayath Different Head of Account 2023-24. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 04-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2732/Adverto/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Rural Development & Panchayat Department
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/JJM /Tender 2023-24/ 1845 Date: 26.12.2023.
Short Term Tender Notification
(Two Cover System) Through e-procurement
Tender has been invited for the following work in Two cover system through e-procurement. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Chitradurga Taluk 02 Works Rs. 106.40 Lakhs AND Hosadurga Taluk 12 Works Rs. 723.34 Lakhs Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 03.01.2024, Date of Technical Bid Opening 04.04.2024 and Date of Financial Bid Opening 05.01.2024. For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/432/2023-24
Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, SIRUGUPPA
No:Apmc/Sgp/Dev/257/2023-24 Date:22-12-2023
Short term e-tender notification
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Siruguppa is invited eligible PWD class 1 civil contractors for tender of "PROVIDING BASIC INFRASCTRUCTURE FACILITIES CC ROAD, DRAIN AT MAIN MARKET YARD AND COVERED AUCTION PLATFORM IN KARUR SUB MARKET YARD OF APMC SIRUGUPPA UNDER RIDF-29 SCHEME 2022-23." Through e-procurement only in 2 cover system on item rate basis. The tenders are required to submit the requisite details through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per KTTP rules and norms.
Time Table And Other Details(APMC/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT198)
01.PRE BID meeting date & time: **06-01-2024 Time 11-00 AM.** 02.Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **10-01-2024 Time 04-00 PM.** 03.Date & time for opening of technical Bid: **12-01-2024 Time 04-30 PM.** 04.Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: **25-01-2024 Time 11-00 AM. 8.**Approximate valueof work (Rs. in Laks): **210.37+GST. 9.**Earnest Money Deposit(Rs.in lakhs): **3.16. 10.**Contractor Eligibility: **PWD First Grade Civil Contractor**
Sd/- Sd/- Secretary, APMC. SIRUGUPPA **Sd/- Sd/- Administrator, APMC. SIRUGUPPA**
DIPR/Ballari/647/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2023-24/4418 DATE: 26/12/2023
Short Term E-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tender/retenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 works under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements and 1 work under head of account 5054-SH Improvements, Totally 2 no. of works, amount put to tender is Rs. 125.00 Lakhs and Rs. 250.00 Lakhs respectively.
Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date:01-01-2024 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications:02-01-2024 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:04-01-2024 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 06-01-2024 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-838/KSMCA/2023-24
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
Email: itstaff_ulb_ckbanavara@yahoo.com
Website: https://chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ./ತಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/04/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2023
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇವರಿಂದ **2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜಿಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2023-24/RT/WORK_INDENT10654	200.00	3,00,000/-

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11.01.2024ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **12.01.2024ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.01.2024ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
DIPR/CP/YC/2722/2023-24

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No: CMC HPT/MF/EL/SLM/2023-24 Dated: 22.12.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT/CALL-2
2023-24 Municipal fund tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in **Two Cover System** are invited from the eligible Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: **06-01-2024, 5.00 PM.** 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: **08-01-2024, 11.00 AM.** 3) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: **09-01-2024 11.00 AM** Indent No: 1) **DMA/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT 4128/CALL-2** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) **98.80** (EMD : **Rs.197600.00**) any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.
Sd/- **Assistant Executive Engineer,** CMC Hosapete
Sd/- **Municipal Commissioner** CMC Hosapete
Sd/- **President** CMC Hosapete
DIPR/VIJAYANAGARA/284/2023-24/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kamataka Public Procurement Portal only)
No. CE(E)/TZ/EE(C)-2/AEE(C)-2/2022-23/16881-86 Date: 27.12.2023
KPTCL invites tenders for the work of **Construction of Multipurpose Auditorium, Amphitheatre, Executive Hostel Block, Additional Hostel Block for trainees, Executive Conference Hall and other allied works (Balance portion of works) at HRD centre, KPTCL, Hoody, Bengaluru (including additional works of STP, UGR, Main Entrance Gate, Rainwater Harvesting, Diesel Generator, Upgradation of Transformer etc.,).**
The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tender can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in.** with hyperlink **'e procurement KPTCL' or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.12.2023.**
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy, Transmission Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ–577217
ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:–apmchonnali@rediffmail.com ದೂ. ಸಂ08188–251014
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಹೊ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/363/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:–21.12.2023
ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–4 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:– CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD, DRAINS AND COVERED AUCTION PLATFORM AT MAIN MARKET YARD OF APMC (UNDER RIDF-29 2023-24) HONNALLI
ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ:– 1,24,15,800/– ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ:– Rs.2,00,000/–
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿಸಿ):– 5½ Months
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಲೋ.ಕೋ.ಇ.:– PWD Class-I & Above
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–01–2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಹಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೇಮಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08188–251014 ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/438/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Directorate, Health and Family Welfare Services
State Health and Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, 6th Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-23.
Phone No: 080-23295606, email id: **dirhfw@gmail.com**
Notification No: DD/NCD/26/2023-24 (E-1145701) Date: 27/12/2023
Tender through e-Procurement
"Selection of Service Provider for STEMI Management Project Phase 2 in Karnataka"
Tender Number: DHFWS/2023-24/SE0430
Directorate, Health & Family Welfare Services invites tender from reputed Manufacturers / Authorized Dealer with necessary documents for **Selection of Service Provider for STEMI Management Project Phase 2 in Karnataka** under Directorate, Health & Family Welfare Services.
The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tender document can be downloaded through **"e-procurement portal"** from **22/12/2023** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **02/02/2024** at **05.30** pm.
Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from **11:00** am to **05:30** pm.
Sd/- Director (HFWs)
DIPR/CP/2735/Zen/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)
e-Tenders are invited for the procurement of the following materials under "GOODS" category on 20.12.2023 as per RTPS requirements through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in:**
(1) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0420/CALL-3, Pump Hollow Tubes. EMD: Rs. 1,400/-. **(2)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0421/CALL-3, SS Hollow Tube. EMD: Rs. 1,720/-. **(3)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0542/CALL-2, Wagon Tippler Spares like PNC Power Supply, Bridge Rectifier etc. EMD: Rs. 3,590/-. **(4)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0544/CALL-2, Power Contactor, Fuse etc. EMD: Rs. 5,490/-. **(5)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0537/CALL-3, 1 in 8½ Point & Crossings RH. EMD: Rs. 75,000/-. **(6)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0508/CALL-2, Boiler Fill Pump. EMD: Rs. 7,320/-. **(7)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0717, Foam Seal Saler 30-45 for BM-1 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 7,200/-. **(8)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0715, 600 MM Width Conveyor belt for MM-2 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 20,500/-. **(9)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0358/CALL-2, Pump spares for CAM-2 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 23,400/-. **(10)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0185/CALL-3, Spun CI Pipes for AHP. EMD: Rs. 17,160/-. **(11)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0342/CALL-3, Mill Spares Wheel Shaft, Sintered Bush for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 16,995/-. **(12)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0325/CALL-3, Railway Track materials for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 4,200/-. **(13)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0453/CALL-4, Mill spares Pin groove, Adj Screw.. EMD: Rs. 25,455/-. **(14)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0714, Journal assembly spares fior unit 8 or RTPS. EMD: Rs. 17,500/-. **(15)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0709, Ceramic lined orifices & Multiple port outlet for MM-1 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 54,500/-. **(16)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0712, Truck for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 35,000/-. **(17)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0713, New Mahindra Bolero for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 14,000/-. **(18)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0716, Filter element, gear pump assy. & Mechanical seal for MM-2 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 17,000/-. **(19)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0473/CALL-2, Pump spares for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 16,000/-. **(20)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0724, Hydrogen gas for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 39,400/-. Last date time for receipt of tenders: **for Sl. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4: 08.01.2024, 10.30 a.m., for Sl. No. 19: 08.01.2024, 4.00 p.m., for Sl. No. 5: 04.01.2024, 4.00 p.m., for Sl. No. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 18 : 06.01.2024, 4.00 p.m., for Sl. No. 20 : 06.01.2024, 5.00 p.m., for Sl. No. 13, 14 & 15: 03.01.2024, 4.00 p.m., for Sl. No. 16 & 17: 28.12.2023, 4.00 p.m.** All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (Purchase) RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Dist: Raichur, Cell: 9449597966, e-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com**

Unjust and unwise

Counterinsurgency in J&K must not target civilians indiscriminately

In a conflict-prone border province such as Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), security forces have to tackle not only terrorism but also engage in counter-insurgency operations in a precise and just manner. The Pir Panjal Valley, comprising Poonch and Rajouri districts, has witnessed fierce encounters between security forces and militants in jungle terrain, leading to the death of 28 soldiers this year. The death of three civilians who were detained by the Army in the Poonch-Rajouri area following a deadly ambush on an Army convoy on December 21, and the fact that five other civilians were badly injured due to alleged torture by the security forces, is a severe indictment of the counter-insurgency tactics there. Such heinous actions by security forces targeting civilians in response to militant attacks are clearly problematic, on two counts. First, this increases the unpopularity of a regime that has not been democratically elected in the Union Territory where provincial elections have not been held for more than half a decade. This is a blow against counter-insurgency in an area that has been relatively more peaceful in comparison to the Kashmir Valley. In fact, the Pir Panjal region has been experiencing militancy in the last two years after relative calm for a decade and a half. Counter-insurgency operations of the kind that followed the ambush last week breed discontent among residents in a region which has not been supportive of militancy in the near past.

One of the aims of militants in the asymmetric warfare waged against Indian security forces is to provoke the forces into committing rights violations against civilians and to use grievances and indignation among them to increase their own support base. Such actions by security forces play into the hands of militants and their handlers across the border. Second, the legitimacy of force or violence and its use by the state depend on the justness of the actions. Indiscrimination in the use of violence targeting civilians without just cause only results in the questioning of that legitimacy in the eyes of the people. The J&K police have registered a murder case against unidentified persons following the deaths of the civilians and the Army has taken three senior officers off their posts while promising an inquiry. Both these agencies must now deliver justice quickly and in a firm manner. "Fake encounter" deaths and torture by security agencies in the Valley have resulted in spurts of increased militancy besides public outrage that developed into major law and order situations. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government has tried to use a no-holds barred security-centric approach to tackle the problem of militancy and public anger in J&K. The repeated acts of rights violations and crimes in the name of counter-insurgency are clear evidence that this approach is not working.

Cricket, commerce

The cash-rich IPL holds the key to Indian team's fortunes in T20Is

Last week's Indian Premier League's (IPL) auction in Dubai reiterated the sporting brand's enduring value and financial muscle. The T20 league, which many years ago Rahul Dravid famously referred to as 'a domestic tournament with an international flavour', has come a long way since its launch on a glitzy April night at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2008. The championship has survived a betting and fixing scandal, team suspensions and ownership issues, and become an irreplaceable element of the Indian summer and a much-watched fixture in the annual cricket calendar. The latest auction with its overseas tryst had an obvious recency bias as evident in the World Cup winning Australian squad's trio of skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Travis Head eliciting competitive bids. The first two also scaled the ₹20 crore peak, which had remained unscaled so far in the IPL's history. Kolkata Knight Riders picked Starc at ₹24.75 crore and Sunrisers Hyderabad latched onto Cummins at ₹20.50 crore. In all the club against country debate that affects sports like football and cricket, what a player achieved for his nation adds immense value to his or her credentials, and that in turn means better money with clubs vying for the star athlete's presence. The Aussies reaped their rewards and many others too were recognised.

The build-up to the auction had its share of drama, as Mumbai Indians took Gujarat Titans skipper Hardik Pandya. He was subsequently appointed as the Mumbai Indians' captain and that meant Rohit Sharma's chequered history as an IPL captain had perhaps drawn to a close. There were cryptic social media posts from Jasprit Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav, and that added to the speculation within the Mumbai Indians' ranks. And since the IPL is seen as a mirror to the Indian team's fortunes in T20, the presumption is that Pandya will continue to lead India in the shortest format. With the West Indies and the U.S. hosting next year's ICC T20 World Cup, the latest auction and the 2024 IPL edition will have a lot of layered meanings attached to them. Seen in that light, unsung Indian players, plying their wares in domestic cricket, being picked by various franchises, is also a reflection of a young crop that may don the Indian blue sometime in the future. Players such as Sameer Rizvi, Kumar Kushagra, Shubham Dube, Swastik Chhikara and Ramandeep Singh found eager buyers. But the way Pakistan cricketers have been kept away from the IPL is also a pointer that sport cannot stay immune to geopolitical tensions.

Growth charts — WHO standards versus India crafted

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Dipa Sinha

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A look at the pros and cons of shifting from World Health Organization child growth standards to a nationally compiled one

High levels of child undernutrition have been a persistent problem in India. It is well recognised that the determinants of undernutrition are multiple, and include food intake, dietary diversity, health, sanitation, women's status and the over-arching context of poverty. The most common measures of childhood undernutrition are based on anthropometric standards such as height-for-age (stunting/chronic undernutrition) and weight-for-height (wasting/acute undernutrition). Monitoring these is key to tracking progress in terms of actual outcomes. India, like most other countries, uses the globally accepted World Health Organization (WHO) Growth Standards to measure malnutrition. However, there is an emergent debate on a number of issues related to the use of these growth standards in India, some of which are discussed below.

On using the MGRS as the base

The WHO standards are based on a Multicentre Growth Reference Study (MGRS) that was conducted in six countries between 1997 and 2003 (Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and the United States). The purpose was to determine the pattern of growth (from birth to five years) of children who did not face any known deficiencies in their environments. The references that were previously used (WHO-National Center for Health Statistics references) were based on children only from the U.S., many of whom were not breastfed but formula-fed. The MGRS took a prescriptive approach, with the specific aim of setting growth 'standards' (how children ought to grow, provided they have a healthy environment) and not growth 'references' (how children of the reference group grow). The sample for India in the MGRS was drawn from a set of privileged households living in South Delhi, of children who met all the eligibility criteria for the study including having a 'favourable' growth environment, being breast-fed and having non-smoking mothers.

Some researchers who have analysed data from other surveys for India suggest that these standards overestimate undernutrition. However, such comparisons with other large datasets would only be valid if these could provide samples that meet all the criteria of a favourable environment for growth, as defined by the MGRS. As it happens, an adequate number of equivalent samples are difficult to find in large-scale surveys in India given the high levels of inequality as well as the underrepresentation of the rich in these datasets. For instance, even among children (six-23 months) in households of the highest quintile in National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-21), only 12.7% meet the requirements of a 'minimum acceptable diet' as defined by WHO. While almost all mothers in the MGRS sample had completed more than 15 years of education (in 2000-01), 54.7% of women in NFHS-5 had completed 12 or more years of schooling.

Such comparisons could also be misleading because the study norms of the WHO-MGRS were very different from these prevalence studies. For example, the MGRS included a component of counselling to ensure appropriate feeding practices, which is obviously missing in the NFHS or Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey. In fact, once it is understood that the MGRS sample was for the purpose of setting prescriptive standards, most of the sampling concerns are resolved. Some further issues raised *vis-à-vis* the MGRS methodology such as pooling of data from different countries have been discussed in detail in the study reports.

Genetic growth, other concerns

Another important set of issues with regard to using the MGRS standards is the difference in genetic growth potential of Indians with respect to others and the influence of maternal heights on child growth. At an individual level, maternal height is undeniably a non-modifiable factor for the growth of her child. Therefore, there is a question of how much improvement is possible in one generation, if at all. However, low average maternal heights are themselves a reflection of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and poor status of women, and, therefore, a measure of an environment of deprivation. An appropriate indicator of a deficient environment, such as stunting, needs to capture this deprivation as well.

Albeit relevant a question still remains on whether the standard is too plastic to be useful, considering these issues of maternal heights and genetic potential. The fact is that a number of countries with similar or even poorer economic conditions, including those in the South Asian region, have shown higher improvements in stunting prevalence using the same WHO-MGRS standards. Regional differences within India, both in the prevalence of stunting as well as increases in adult heights, also indicate that some States such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are achieving much faster reductions than others. It also needs to be considered that gene pools also shift at the population level with greater socio-economic development – a fact demonstrated by the growing average heights of countries such as Japan, refuting the immutability of genetic potential.

Another serious concern is related to inappropriately high standards leading to a misdiagnosis of the situation, and a resultant potential overfeeding of misclassified children under programmes of the government introduced to address undernutrition, thereby resulting in an increase in overweight and obesity. This is a worry, given the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India. Nevertheless, given the dietary gaps that children have and the poor coverage of schemes such as mid-day meals and supplementary nutrition in anganwadis, such fears appear largely unwarranted. Indeed, the quality of the meals under these schemes must be improved to ensure that they are not cereal-heavy, include all nutrients, and contribute to dietary diversity. Recommendations such as including eggs in meals for children and pulses in the Public Distribution System must be acted upon urgently. It is also well understood that along with improving diets, multiple interventions such as better sanitation, access to health care, childcare services and so on are required for better nutritional outcomes.

There is also no doubt that there are also many gaps to fill in the more distal determinants of stunting, mainly; livelihoods and poverty, access to education and women's empowerment. These goals are inextricably linked to the overall development of the country, with equitable distribution of resources. Their reflection in anthropometric indicators only enhances the importance of these summary indicators rather than detract from it. It is relevant to acknowledge that individual children grow uniquely, and trained child health personnel such as treating physicians can apply judgement calls on the interpretation of growth charts in the context of individual children in their care. What these standards are used for are mainly to understand population trends. Using the appropriate standards is also important for international comparisons and intra-country trends – an advantage that would be lost with any new country-specific standard.

ICMR recommendation

In light of these discussions, the Indian Council of Medical Research has constituted a committee to revise the growth references for India. It has been reported that this committee has recommended a detailed rigorous study to be conducted across the country to examine child growth with the purpose of devising national growth charts, if necessary.

Yet, while acquiring newer, and more precise information on child growth is a welcome move – considering our high aspirations of reaching development to every last person by 2047 and its advantages of comparability – it seems logical to stick to the aspirationally high but achievable standards suggested by the WHO-MGRS.

The quest for 'happiness' in the Viksit Bharat odyssey

G.S. Bajpai

is Vice-Chancellor, National Law University Delhi

A happiness-induced development model for India is more pertinent than the current model of mere economic development

Viksit Bharat has now been formally launched. The idea of making India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of its Independence, sounds exciting. This goal looks achievable, given the pace with which the country is moving ahead. This moment also gives us an opportunity to assess the idea of development intended. The focus and priorities in the choice of development planning are crucial and complex. In Viksit Bharat, economic development is overemphasised. But post-developmentalists argue that this is a Euro-centric notion of development which reflects the interests of its practitioners.

The aspects included in Viksit Bharat are structural transformation; organising labour markets; increasing competitiveness; improving financial and social inclusion; governance reforms, and seizing opportunities in the Green Revolution. Aspiring to claim the title of being the world's largest economy will not fulfil every desire and ambition this country holds dear. The need for material development can be accepted, but this will be one of many things India will aspire for by 2047. Critics of development have consistently raised concerns about the conventional models of economic growth, challenging the contentious notions surrounding modernity and progress. The current idea of Viksit Bharat needs to be reimagined to assess what other aspects of development would assume importance for India.

'Happiness' has become a goal

Instead of 'Viksit Bharat', the theme ought to be 'Happy India-Developed India' (Khushhal Bharat-Viksit Bharat). Happiness ought to be the central pursuit in this journey. Without achieving happiness, development has no meaning. Ironically, the nations have developed, but people are not happy. Rich nations are not essentially happy nations. Wealthy nations have only performed on GDP and per capita income but have failed miserably in the context of social and psychological well-being indicators. This development scheme conveniently overlooks mental health and wellness. The World Happiness Report 2023 shows many developed nations have poor happiness markers. Some nations have attained both in a balanced way. India's case is also crucial because it is ranked 126 out of 137 countries despite being the fifth-largest economy. The curious question would be whether India will have a better rank in the happiness index in the years to come. Development and the Viksit Bharat agenda will remain a dream if we fail to imagine how to rise in the happiness index.

Happiness measures have already become the goals of public policy in many countries. Happiness is no longer a subjective matter. Since its inception in 2012, the *World Happiness Report* has devised a robust method to measure and calculate it. The happiness matrix includes six variables: GDP per capita; healthy life expectancy at birth; generosity; social support; freedom to make life choices, and perception of corruption. The Happiness Report of 2023 placed extra emphasis on trust and benevolence in crisis situations such as COVID-19.

Social connections are key

Lara B. Aknin, one of the co-authors of the *Happiness Report* 2023, has said, "We see those various forms of everyday kindness, such as helping a stranger, donating to charity, and volunteering, are above pre-pandemic levels." The report found that despite the pandemic, economic crisis, and personal losses, acts of kindness have increased globally. The report also highlighted the importance of social connections and relationships in contributing to happiness and well-being.

According to the report's parameters, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and the Netherlands are the happiest countries. These countries achieved development not at the cost of social disruption. Instead, they have built up social connections and support systems.

A happiness-induced development model for India is highly pertinent as we are significantly governed by social relationships and cultural mandates. On the contrary, the current model of mere economic development is highly disruptive to our social order. This form of development leads to disorders and crime. All aspects of life in this development cycle do not change simultaneously, creating imbalances and contradictions. Such things are visible in our society, where industrial and economic developments are changing alarmingly, but quality aspects of life continue to lag.

Looking beyond GDP

The need to include social indicators for development becomes more pertinent as GDP estimates fail to consider life's human and social aspects. The European Commission's focus is also moving beyond GDP, shifting to a measurement of economic performance and social progress. Specific indices already developed could make the agenda for Viksit Bharat@2047 more inclusive and comprehensive. For instance, a weightage to the Human Development Index, which consists of life expectancy, educational attainment, and income level, could be considered. Further, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 1970 created a Social Development Index with 16 core indicators could be another inclusion.

Similarly, the World Bank's Environmentally Sustainable Development Division has developed a 'Green Index' that measures a nation's wealth by incorporating three components: produced assets, natural resources and human resources. An International Human Suffering Index also measures the country on different parameters of human suffering. In conceiving a national vision for development, indices such as the Global Innovation Index, Rule of Law Index, Poverty Index, Corruption Perceptions Index, Gender Equality Index, and World Press Freedom Index will be pretty significant to give effect to the idea of a happy India. revisiting the pursuit of a developed India as Happy-India will be pivotal in Viksit Bharat's journey.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defence Minister's line

It is shocking to know that "some forces" have sensed "India's growing power" and are filled "with jealousy and hatred", as stated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the context of the attacks on merchant vessels. On the other hand, astonishingly, the French authorities grounded an aircraft carrying 303 "Indian citizens" on the grounds of suspected "human trafficking". If, indeed, the "growing power" of India is a universal truth, it is quite mysterious why a country such as France needs to ground an aircraft with Indians for five days on suspicion of large-scale alleged "human trafficking". One hopes the "master brains" behind the ship attacks or an alleged "human trafficking" attempt will be rounded up soon.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

RTI reply

Many railway stations lack amenities and proper toilets in coaches, yet it is a surprise that a reply to an RTI application says that a significant amount of money is being spent on 3D selfie booths featuring the PM (Page 1, December 27). The 3D selfie booth is not a solution to improve the state of the railways. What we need are these: basic potable water and amenities in stations and better toilets in coaches.

C. Raghavan,
Chennai

The government seems to be prioritising optics over substantive issues. Allocation of precious resources for election gimmicks is an insult. Shameful to say, even our courts at the district level, for instance, lack proper toilet facilities.

Kurian Mathew,
Kochi

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Making health our top priority in 2024

Sathya Sriram

is CEO-Preventive Health, Apollo Hospitals

The 2023 Navaratri festivities in Gujarat were overshadowed by the news that 10 people had purportedly died of heart attacks in a span of 24 hours. What is even more disconcerting is that the victims ranged from a 13-year-old to middle-aged individuals, dispelling the myth that heart-related issues primarily afflict the elderly. This alarming trend is not just confined to Gujarat; it is found across the nation, marking a paradigm shift in India's disease burden. While communicable diseases persist as a significant threat, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases have emerged as the predominant public health concern.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report titled 'Invisible Numbers', a staggering 66% of deaths in India in 2019 were attributed to NCDs. The report also suggests that 22% of individuals aged 30 or older in India would succumb to NCDs before their 70th birthday, surpassing the global probability of 18%. While the spectre of NCDs presents a challenge, the good news is it is never too late to invest in health. The fact is that NCD-led deaths are largely preventable, and the solution lies in the choices we make in our daily lives.

A quiet crisis

The silent epidemic of NCDs is fuelled by common behavioural risk factors – unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, the use of tobacco and alcohol – which are all on the rise in India. This epidemic is further spurred by factors including a genetic predisposition towards conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, and a sedentary lifestyle, which also brings with it issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression. India bears the dubious distinction of being the diabetes capital with 101 million diabetics and 136 million with prediabetes. Cardiovascular diseases top the mortality charts, and cancer incidence is projected to rise by 57.5% by 2040. This health crisis not only affects individuals but also poses a substantial economic burden. The World Economic Forum estimates that India could incur a staggering cost of $4.58 trillion between 2012 and 2030 due to NCDs and mental health conditions.

> The fact is that non-communicable diseases-led deaths are largely preventable, and the solution lies in the choices we make in our daily lives

A resolution for 2024

As India aspires to become a $5 trillion economy by 2027, the growing incidence of NCDs is a pressing concern. While the government has launched initiatives such as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke, and the 75/25 initiative, the onus now lies on individuals to take charge of their health. As we step into a new year, it is important that we choose to make health our top priority. While New Year resolutions are made only to be broken a few months later, this is one resolution that we can no longer afford to break.

Our health is determined by where we live, work, and engage in other activities, which brings in factors such as urban planning and environmental pollution that are sometimes beyond our control. However, what we can control is what we put in our bodies, how we move through the day, and how we stay ahead of illnesses by taking health check-ups regularly. What we can manage is our daily lifestyle, by making healthier choices, and this is where micro-habits – small, manageable actions that fit effortlessly into our daily routines – can make a difference.

First, we can integrate more natural movement into our daily lives. For instance, we can walk where possible instead of taking a vehicle. Just 30 minutes every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen our bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance

Second, we can choose 'slow food' over fast food. Food that is prepared with the ingredients that are right for us and food that is consumed with appreciation. There is a connection between the food we eat and the health of our environment, our communities, and ourselves.

Third, we can take out a few hours once a year and get a comprehensive health check-up. We need to change our attitude from 'it's better not to know' to 'it's best for me to be proactive so that I can overcome it'.

Fourth, we can make health a dinner table and water cooler conversation. We ask our colleagues and loved ones about their day, their achievements, their plans, so why not ask what they did for their health? How much did they walk? Do they feel anxious? It is only by normalising this conversation can we truly stay one step ahead of health issues.

Winning the war against NCDs is not just vital for individual well-being; it's a decisive factor in safeguarding the health of the nation. By embracing sustainable healthy habits today, we commit to making healthier choices for 365 days and beyond. This resolution transcends personal improvement; it represents a collective dedication to shaping a healthier, more prosperous India.

A healthier nation

The power to transform the nation lies in the daily choices of its citizens, reflecting a profound understanding that the well-being of individuals directly impacts the well-being of society. In committing to Resolution 2024, we recognise that small, consistent actions, when multiplied across millions, can generate a seismic shift in the health landscape. It is a call-to-action resonating with the belief that the strength of a nation is rooted in the vitality of its people. As we embark on this journey towards a healthier India, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for ourselves and for generations to come.

No room for hijab yet

The fear of being dubbed 'anti-Hindu' has put the Congress government on a leash

STATE OF PLAY

S. Bageshree
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Will or won't the Karnataka government revoke the order that, in effect, imposes a ban on girl students wearing the hijab in classrooms? All indications are that it won't, at least in the near future.

On December 22, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the Congress government will withdraw the order that restricts hijabs in classrooms. He added that everyone should be able to wear and eat what they want. However, a day later, Mr. Siddaramaiah was evasive when asked if the restriction would be lifted this academic year. He said that his government was only "contemplating" such a move and that the matter required further deliberation. The grapevine is that the Chief Minister has been nudged by the leaders at the Centre not to touch the "sensitive" issue while the case is pending before the Supreme Court and especially before the Lok Sabha elections.

The hijab controversy that hit international headlines in early 2022, when the Assembly elections were about a year away, began in Karnataka's communally sensitive coastal town of Udupi. A group of hijab-clad girl students in a junior college were denied entry into classroom on the grounds that their head scarves violated the institution's uniform policy. Soon, protests flared up across Karnataka, with a section of Hindu students insisting that they would wear saffron shawls if Muslim girls were allowed to wear the hijab. This quick spread was in no small measure fuelled by

social media and regional news channels. The video of a burqa-clad college girl, Muskaan, being heckled by a group of saffron shawl-wearing boys shouting "Jai Sri Ram" in Mandya in Old Mysore region went viral on social media.

On February 5, 2022, the then Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government issued an order that said that students in educational institutions should only wear prescribed uniforms, and where none is prescribed, wear "such attire that would accord with equality and integrity and would not disrupt public order." While the order did not specifically "ban" the hijab, it translated to that. There were reports of college authorities refusing suggestions that girls be allowed to fashion their dupatta, which is part of the uniform, as a headscarf.

Some of the aggrieved students went to the Karnataka High Court, which, in its final judgment on March 15, 2022, upheld the government order on the ground that the hijab is not part of the essential religious practice of Islam. The petitioners then appealed before the Supreme Court, which, on October 13, delivered a split verdict. The matter is now pending before a larger Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India.

Though there is no data on the number of dropouts, a fact-finding study taken up by the People's Union for Civil Liberties-Karnataka in select towns and villages contended that "a whole generation of young Muslim students' right to education has been imperilled by the hijab ban." In fact, following the initial announcement by Mr. Siddaramaiah on lifting the ban, Muskaan had said that she was one of the students who had dropped out but would now be able to return to college.

The entire episode underlines the fact that the Congress government in Karnataka, despite winning with a thumping majority of 135 out of 224 seats, continues to be hemmed in by the ideological framework of Hindutva. The Congress appears to constantly dread the prospect of the BJP, even as a weakened political force, finding in its every move and gesture an opportunity to brand it an "anti-Hindu" party that indulges in "appeasement" politics. This explains why the Congress is in no hurry to touch many of the BJP government's controversial decisions relating to religion, such as the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022 (known as the anti-conversion law), or the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020.

This fear is not unfounded, since few can beat the BJP and its affiliates in setting the narrative, as has been proved time and again in Karnataka and elsewhere. What accentuates this is also the lack of an ideological clarity on the part of Congress leaders, barring a handful, to take on the politics of Hindutva head on.

In effect, while the Congress continues its precarious balancing act, Muskaan's wait to re-enter the classroom remains indefinitely long.

A tale of two regimes: disruptions and hurried deliberations

Disruption, mostly led by the BJP, peaked in the UPA-II regime; a significant number of Bills have been passed without adequate deliberation during NDA-II

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani & Rebecca Rose Varghese

After the suspension of numerous Members of Parliament in the recently concluded Winter Session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi slammed the Opposition parties for disrupting proceedings.

During the 18-day session, the Lok Sabha witnessed a security breach, following which the Opposition demanded a statement from the Union Home Minister. The request was rejected. The Opposition MPs then protested and carried placards into the well of the House. This resulted in the record suspension of 146 MPs.

When Arun Jaitley was the Leader of the Opposition during the UPA-II government, he had said that while parliamentary obstruction should be avoided, disruptions are a "legitimate tactic of the Opposition" if "parliamentary accountability is subverted". Similarly, Sushma Swaraj, when she was the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had said that "not allowing Parliament to function is also a form of democracy, like any other form".

Data of the past two decades show that most interruptions in Parliament occurred during the 15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014) when the BJP was the principal opposition party. Over 50% of the available sitting hours were lost in interruptions then. In the same period, over 40% of the time in the Rajya Sabha was lost in disruptions – the highest in the four Lok Sabhas over the 2004-2023 period.

Chart 1 shows the share of sitting hours lost due to interruptions in each session of the last four Lok Sabhas. More than 90% of sitting hours were lost in the 6th session of the 15th Lok Sabha when the Opposition stalled Parliament over a demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the alleged large-scale corruption and scams in the Commonwealth Games, the 2-G spectrum allocation, and the Adarsh Housing Society. Members of the Opposition had trooped into the well of the House raising slogans. During the same period, the 221st session of the Rajya Sabha lost 88% of sitting hours due to interruptions.

Chart 2 shows the share of sitting hours lost due to interruptions in each session of the Rajya Sabha. The 15th session of the 15th Lok Sabha saw over 80% loss in sitting hours due to disruption over the issue of the formation of Telangana, the death of 40 children in Muzaffarnagar relief camps, and the arrest of 150 fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, among others.

Despite the disruption, the UPA-II government in the 15th Lok Sabha passed 179 bills. The NDA-led 16th Lok Sabha (2014-2019) passed 180 Bills. In the current Lok Sabha, 207 Bills were passed. Parliament passed three criminal law amendment Bills, a Bill regulating telecommunication, and a Bill to regulate the appointment of the Election Commission of India, all in the absence of a majority of the Opposition members.

Worryingly, 64 out of the 172 Bills have been passed in the current Lok Sabha with less than an hour of discussion, based on an analysis of data from PRS Legislative Research **(Chart 3)**. The numbers for the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha were 44 and 24, respectively. Chart 3 shows the time spent on discussing a Bill in the past three legislatures of the Lower House. Each dot corresponds to a Bill passed in the Lok Sabha. Dots marked in red refer to Bills that were passed after being debated for 60 minutes or less.

Chart 4 shows the numbers for the Rajya Sabha. As many as 61 Bills were passed in the Upper House with less than an hour of discussion in the period corresponding to the 17th Lok Sabha, compared to 34 (2009-2014) and 39 (2014-2019).

Impeding Parliament

The data for the charts were sourced from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and PRS Legislative Research

Chart 1: Share of sitting hours lost due to interruptions in each session of the past four Lok Sabhas (in %)

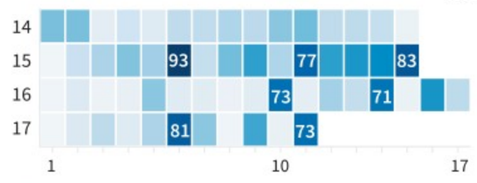


Chart 2: Share of sitting hours lost due to interruptions in each session of the Rajya Sabha (in %)

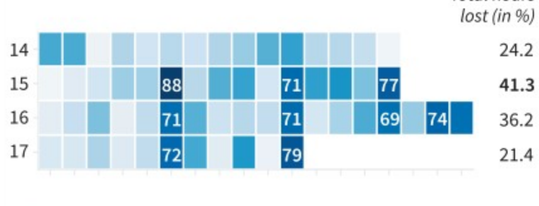
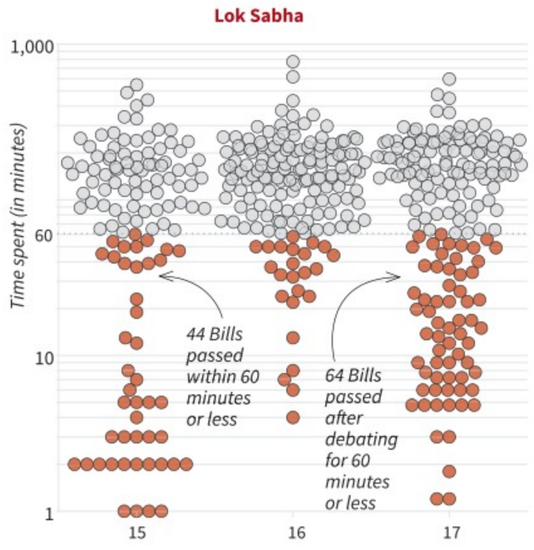


Chart 3: Time spent (in minutes) on discussing a Bill in the last three Lok Sabha Houses. (●) indicates Bill passed after being discussed for 60 minutes or less



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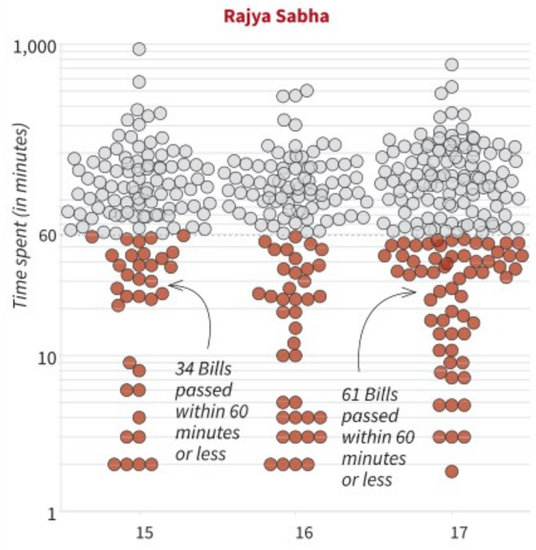

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 28, 1973

Directive to CMs to release locomen

New Delhi, Dec. 27: The Railway Minister, Mr. L.N. Mishra, has sent messages to the Chief Ministers and the Lt. Governor of Delhi requesting them to take steps for the immediate release of locomen arrested during the recent strike, except those charged with violence or sabotage. Mr. Mishra has also requested them to withdraw the warrants of arrest against those strikers who have not been arrested.

A Railway Ministry spokesman said reports of release of a number of locomen had been received.

He added that more locomen had reported for duty on the Northern Railway and the affected divisions of the other railways, except at a few places, including the Bikaner division, where there was still large-scale absenteeism.

The railways were taking steps to move out the immobilised goods wagons. Passenger train services were also being restored gradually.

The Dakshin Express was being restored to-day between New Delhi and Hyderabad from Hyderabad end. From New Delhi, the train would operate from to-morrow. The Itarsi-Bina Express would be restored from to-morrow at both ends.

The spokesman said there was further improvement in the running of Grand Trunk Express. Its punctuality was seriously affected by the agitation at Nagpur for enhancement of rations. The agitation had also affected the movement of goods through Nagpur.

Goods operation on the Northern Railway had improved substantially and would soon become normal. The exchange of traffic with the other railways was also reaching the "pre-strike level."

A Jabalpur report said the movement of goods traffic in the Jabalpur division of the Central Railway was restored following the resumption of duty by locomen to-day.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 28, 1923

Mexican revolution

The Mexican Consul in London has received a telegram stating that, after violent fighting, Government forces captured Peubla where the majority of rebel forces were concentrated, capturing a 1,000 prisoners with arms and ammunitions. Pursuit of rebels is continuing. The victory of the Government forces constitutes a decisive blow against the rebels.

From Page One

Rajnath meets kin of dead civilians in J&K

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah urged the Minister to ensure that such incidents did not recur. "The incident of civilian deaths should not be repeated. It's good that the Defence Minister arrived here but the visit can't bring back the dead," the former Chief Minister said.

Mr. Singh complimented the local people for their steadfastness and contribution to joining the Union government's efforts at bringing the Union Territory into the mainstream. "The unity in thought process, alignment and collective resolve for the good of the nation is the most important foundation for achievement of shared aspirations of peace & development in the Union Territory," he said. Mr. Singh said that there was a need to remain extra vigilant so that no untoward incident occurred in the future. "There should be zero tolerance to terrorism," he said. "Additional efforts are being made to bolster the security and intelligence framework," he added.

The Minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the Army personnel who sustained injuries. "Each of our Army personnel is important to us. Every soldier is like a member of our family. We cannot tolerate anyone looking down on our soldiers," he said. Affirming his faith in the forces, Mr. Singh said, "I believe in your bravery and steadfastness. Terrorism should be finished off in J&K and you need to move forward with this commitment. I have full faith that you will achieve victory."

Spike in militancy

During his visit to Rajouri, he met senior officials to assess the security situation after the region witnessed a spurt in militancy. He was accompanied by the Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, and the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Upendra Dwivedi. A detailed brief on the prevalent security situation, counter-infiltration grid and operational preparedness was presented to the Defence Minister, an official spokesman said. Mr. Singh discussed operational challenges with ground commanders, calling for professional conduct and due diligence while carrying out operations, the spokesman said.

Confident of return of annual summits: EAM

He emphasised the wide range of agreements the two sides have signed, including one that will further Russian collaboration on the Kudankulam nuclear power plant, and one renewing diplomatic consultation protocols for the period between 2024 and 2028.

"Our talks confirmed that relations between Moscow and New Delhi are one of trust, built on mutual respect and not subject to political fluctuations. They fully reflect the nature of our cooperation, as part of the special and privileged strategic partnership signed by the leaders of Russia and India," Mr. Lavrov said, adding that they had agreed to deepen cooperation on the International North-South Transport Corridor that connects the two countries via Iran's Bandar Abbas port, as well as the development of the Chennai-Vladivostok shipping route and the Polar Northern Sea routes.Mr. Lavrov and Mr. Jaishankar also discussed a bilateral investment treaty, and plans to resume talks for the Eurasian Economic Union-India Free Trade Agreement in the "second half of January". Trade between the two countries has crossed $50 billion in the past year, on the back of increased Indian imports of Russian oil and fertilizer in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Jaishankar said that the trade was likely to increase this year, was "more balanced", "sustainable, and provides for fair market access". However, he did not mention any forward movement on resolving the rupee-rouble payment mechanism meant to circumvent the problems caused by Western sanctions on Russia.

Annual summits

When asked whether the annual summit between the leaders, which was held without a break from 2000 to 2021, would be resumed, Mr. Jaishankar said that the leadership of both countries gave the highest-level mechanism "great importance". He said that it would no doubt be held in 2024, explaining that it had been put off this year due to India's other commitments with the G-20 Presidency. He added that India hoped to host several governors from Russia's Far East at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit to be inaugurated by Mr. Modi on January 10.

Changing global politics

Praising India for ensuring that the G-20 summit declaration was not "one-sided", Mr. Lavrov lashed out at the United States and other G-7 countries for what he called the "distortion of the principles of international law and development of free markets", referring to their sanctions against Russia, the freezing of Russian currency reserves, and the expulsion of Russia from international credit systems. Claiming that the Global North was in decline, he said that the Global South and the East were "steadily increasing" their share of growth. "The trend will strengthen, including due to the expansion of BRICS," Mr. Lavrov said, referring to this year's doubling of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping to include more emerging economies, including oil majors such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Putin will host the first summit of the extended BRICS in 2024, which Mr. Modi is expected to attend.

Rahul to begin Bharat Nyay Yatra on Jan. 14

Congress chief Kharge will flag off the two-month, 6,200-km Manipur-to-Mumbai yatra at Imphal; with the march through 14 States focusing on social, economic and political justice, the party is hoping that it can counter the BJP's politics after the Ram Mandir inauguration at Ayodhya

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi added "justice" to the theme of "unity and love" as the party on Wednesday announced the Bharat Nyay Yatra from Manipur to Mumbai, as a follow-up to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Nyay yatra will start from Manipur's capital Imphal on January 14 and will conclude in Mumbai on March 20.

At a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters with communications chief Jairam Ramesh, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the Bharat Nyay Yatra would be mostly covered by bus along with short stretches of walking.

The east-west yatra will cover around 6,200 km across 14 States, travelling through Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

The *yatra*, covering most of the States which were not covered by the Bharat Jodo Yatra, will be flagged off by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from Imphal on January 14.

"On December 21, the Congress Working Committee unanimously gave an opinion that Rahul Gandhi*ji* should start a yatra from east to west. Now, Rahul*ji* also agreed to fulfil the wishes of the CWC," Mr. Venugopal said.

He said interactions would be held with women, youth, and the marginalised communities during the yatra.

Asked about the rationale behind choosing Manipur as the starting point of the yatra, Mr. Venugopal said the party wanted to begin the process of "healing the wounds" of the people of the northeastern State. Since May 3, the State had seen one of the worst ethnic conflicts between the Kuki and Meitei communities, resulting in more than 200 deaths and rendering nearly 60,000 people homeless. Asked if leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) would be taking part, Mr. Venugopal said details were being worked out.

Walk of hope: Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra's concluding event in Srinagar in January 2023. NISSAR AHMAD

Mr. Ramesh said the first edition of the Bharat Jodo Yatra had raised the issues of economic inequality, social polarisation, and an authoritarian style of governance. The second leg of the yatra would focus on social, economic and political justice for the people of the country, he said. "After spreading the message of unity, love and harmony through Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi will seek justice for the people of the country," Mr. Ramesh said.

As Mr. Gandhi's yatra traverses through the Hindi heartland States, such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, there will be a renewed emphasis on social justice by raising the issue of caste census and ensuring the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) their "rightful share" in the country's development.

By focusing on social justice, the Congress could also be hoping to build a counter-narrative to the BJP's plans to make political capital after the grand inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya on January 22.

Mr. Gandhi, speaking to mediapersons during the Winter Session of Parliament, did not agree with the contention that the voters of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan had rejected the party's OBC outreach in the recent Assembly elections. "No, they have not rejected. Yes, they have given an OBC Chief Minister [in Madhya Pradesh] but that's not the issue. The question is what is their share in the structure? The Prime Minister is an OBC but the government is run by 90 officers and there are only three of them," he said.

Lack of jobs, inflation

The issue of unemployment and inflation will prominently figure in the Nyay yatra. Mr. Gandhi had cited them as the main reasons for the two youth breaching Parliament security and jumping into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery.

"There has definitely been a security breach and that's there. But why did it happen? The biggest issue before the country is unemployment and it's simmering across the country because of Modi*ji*'s policies," Mr. Gandhi had said when asked about the December 13 security breach.

"Where are the jobs? The youth are disappointed. We have to focus on this issue and provide jobs to the youth," he added.

The theme of political justice would revolve around "protecting the values enshrined in the Constitution".

Mr. Ramesh explained the difference between the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Nyay Yatra in a post on X. He said the Bharat Jodo Yatra was anchored in the Constitution's Preamble's pillars of "liberty, equality and fraternity".

"The Bharat Nyay Yatra is anchored in the Preamble's very first pillar of justice – social, economic and political. The repeated assaults on the Constitution will not be allowed to succeed!" the Congress communications chief noted.

Attempts on to stall probe into high-profile corruption cases in Tamil Nadu, says ED

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Asst. Director assures the police of ED willing to provide relevant material if given inquiry details

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has expressed apprehension that attempts are on to prevent the Central agency from conducting investigation into high-profile corruption cases registered in Tamil Nadu.

Replying to a notice issued by the Madurai police requiring appearance of the ED's Assistant Director, Sub-Zonal Office, Madurai, for an inquiry, the agency said the notice was received after the appointed time on Tuesday, and had no sign or seal of the issuing authority.

'References missing'

Moreover, copies of letters cited as references in the notice were not enclosed. The abrupt and sudden notice without informing the subject matter, created unnecessary impediment in the smooth functioning of the office.

In the reply, Assistant Director Atul Gupta said that it was relevant to mention the recent "illegal" search conducted by certain officials of Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on December 1, when multiple unknown and unauthorised persons "broke open this office and accessed/stole sensitive and confidential investigation records of this office".

The agency had a grievance that such kind of repeated illegal acts and abuse of provisions of the CrPC "was being done with the sole motive of preventing this office from conducting lawful investigations into cases of corruption registered in the State and by the powerful persons of the State".

Mr. Gupta said that a criminal complaint was lodged with the Director-General of Police to register an FIR against DVAC officials and other unknown persons. Assuring the Madurai police of best cooperation, he said the agency was more than willing to provide the relevant material to help the police, subject to being informed about the details of the inquiry.

'Illegal search'

Mr. Gupta said the ED was handling various sensitive cases, including illegal mining, high-profile corruption cases, public investment fraud cases, and bank frauds.

Police sources said the inquiry being conducted by the Tallakulam police in Madurai was based on the complaint submitted by the Enforcement Directorate to the DGP requesting registration of a case against some DVAC officials and others for conducting an "illegal" search and "stealing" sensitive case documents.

Minister dismisses yatra, evokes 1984 riots

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Anurag Thakur dismissed the Congress's Bharat Nyay Yatra, terming it a spurious attempt to provide justice by "those who could not provide justice to the victims of the anti-Sikh riots of 1984".

"How can those who could not provide justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which took place during their regime, for several years, do justice to anyone," he said.

"How will those who induct members of the *tukde-tukde* gang, and create division on the lines of caste and region, provide justice?" he asked.

The phrase *tukde-tukde* gang has been used by the BJP to accuse some of "anti-nationalism".

Mr. Thakur went on to credit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for setting up a Special Investigation Team to probe the anti-Sikh riots and provide justice to its victims.

INBRIEF

Parliament security breach case accused moves Delhi HC

Neelam Azad (middle, in the photo), an accused arrested in the December 13 Parliament security breach case, on Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court alleging her police remand was illegal as she was not allowed to consult a legal practitioner of her choice during the trial court proceedings. In her petition seeking a writ of *habeas corpus* directing her production before the High Court as well as an order to "set her at liberty", Ms. Azad said not allowing her to consult a lawyer of her choice amounted to violation of her fundamental right, making the remand order unlawful. The matter is likely to be mentioned for urgent hearing on Thursday. PTI

Cabinet approves 4.5-km-long bridge across Ganga in Bihar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved a 4.5-km-long six-lane bridge across the Ganga in Bihar, with an estimated project cost of ₹3,064 crore, that will connect Digha in Patna with Sonepur in Saran. The project is expected to be completed in 42 months, after it is awarded.

MP writes to Railway Minister over PM selfie booths

Rajya Sabha member from Kerala V. Sivadasan has written to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw expressing dismay over the fact that Central Railway spent nearly ₹1.62 crore on installing selfie booths with cut-outs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Sivadasan requested urgent intervention so that wastage of money for partisan political propaganda is avoided. *The Hindu* reported on December 27 that the Central Bureau of Communication under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had approved "L1 contract rates" for installing temporary selfie booths at ₹1.25 lakh per installation and permanent booths at ₹6.25 lakh.

HC rejects PIL plea against Soren in stone mining case

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday gave a major relief to Chief Minister Hemant Soren in the illegal stone mining lease case.

The Division Bench dismissed the public interest litigation (PIL) plea filed by activist Sunil Mahto and said that the PIL was a repetition of an earlier one filed by petitioner Shiv Shankar Sharma, which was rejected by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Mahto had alleged that Mr. Soren misused his power to allocate mining leases to himself and his family members. He had also alleged that the Chief Minister made disproportionate assets through unknown sources of income.

Centre hikes copra MSP by ₹250-₹300 per quintal for 2024

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), which met here on Wednesday, has decided to increase the minimum support price (MSP) for copra for 2024. The new MSP for milling copra will be ₹11,160 a quintal – an increase of ₹300 from the 2023 season.

The new MSP for ball copra will be ₹12,000 per quintal – an increase of ₹250 per quintal. The rate will be effective from next year. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said that though copra prices had fallen globally, the Narendra Modi government had decided to provide an MSP of at least 50% higher than the production cost. "Accordingly, the copra MSP has been increased by ₹250-₹300 per quintal for 2024 season," Mr. Thakur said. According to a government release, the new rates would ensure a margin of 51.84% for milling copra, and 63.26% for ball copra.

Milling copra is used to extract oil, while ball/edible copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka.

In 2023, the government has procured over 1.33 lakh metric tonnes of copra at a cost of ₹1,493 crore, the release said.

Minorities panel seeks report on J&K civilian deaths

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after three civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch-Rajouri area were found dead after they were picked up by the Army for questioning, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) on Wednesday took cognisance of the case and issued a notice to the Union Territory's administration.

The NCM was acting on a complaint by Delhi-based human rights activist Saddam Mujeeb, who compiled information from news reports.

Taking cognisance of the complaint, the NCM has written to the J&K Chief Secretary, seeking a detailed report on the incident by January 15.

APPEAL

Mr. Ganapathy is 49 years old an Auto driver, he is diagnosed to have Rneumatic Heart Disease and has to undergo Valve Replacement at Public Health Centre, Chennai. He is in urgent need of **Rs. 2 Lakh** for his surgery. We appeal to you to kindly contribute and bring back a new life. Any amount will go a long way in covering the cost. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. (**Please do not mention patient name on the cheque**).

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

‘Not judiciary’s job to strengthen or weaken govt. or Opposition’

Former Supreme Court judge says the judiciary must act with an equal hand, and the perception should not gain ground that judges are taking up cases to strengthen the government; he says the National Judicial Appointments Commission could have been tweaked to judicially correct the imbalance instead of quashing it wholesale; he says the CJI is the master of listing of cases

INTERVIEW

Sanjay Kishan Kaul

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who retired as Supreme Court judge on December 25, said judges are protected by the Constitution and should be bold. Edited excerpts:

The judiciary should, of course, not be viewed as the government’s political Opposition. But has it subtly helped to strengthen the government’s position in choice cases, either by declining to intervene or readily agreeing to adjournments or not taking up the case or taking up certain cases during weekends? Is this a viable apprehension?

There is a political space for the government and the Opposition to debate, whether it be in Parliament or outside. At times, when any one government gets strong, the judiciary cannot play the role of the Opposition. The expectation sometimes, I feel, of the Opposition is, the government is getting very headstrong, you control it. That control happens in a political space.

When you are talking about cases – in what manner they should be taken up and what priority should be given – I do believe the judiciary must act with an equal hand. This perception should not gain ground that we are taking up cases to strengthen the government. It is not the judiciary’s job to either strengthen or weaken the government or the Opposition.

Petitions on crucial issues such as Article 370, electoral bonds and demonetisation remained pending in the Supreme Court for long before they were effectively heard. By this time, a lot of water has flown under the bridge. Circumstances have changed. Is the time lapse affecting the way they are decided or is there a thought within the court that crucial issues should be decided in cold blood and not when temperatures are high?

The Article 370 matter had been taken up. It was going on from day to day. But a difference of perception among the arguing lawyers arose whether the case should go before a five-judge Bench or seven-judge Bench. In a sense, substantive hearing was taking place when it was diverted to this issue... Yes, there have been delays in some crucial cases, but ultimately, in the volume of cases filed, which case has to be given priority... this falls within the prerogative

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

of the Chief Justice of India. Once you recognise he is the master of the roster, he is also master of the listing. He has to take a call on what case should be given prominence.

Should the listing system of cases in the Supreme Court be revised. There have been complaints/letters against part-heard cases being shifted from one Bench to another?

A lot of the listing system has been re-examined and considered. I don’t know how much of the blame rests with the Registry in this. Matters are listed with reasonable frequency, but what you are talking about is movement of matters from court to court. These stem from the working of the Supreme Court. The difference between the High Courts and the Supreme Court’s working is the High Courts are managed through a committee of judges more than just singularly the Chief Justice [of the High Court concerned]. The Chief Justice, of course, has primacy. The Supreme Court is a very Registry-centric operation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in command. So, here it is really between the CJI and the Registry. The other judges really do not have a role to play in this.

So cases would not be moved or deleted without the CJI knowing?

It cannot happen without it. The Registry reports to the CJI on everything. And the CJI controls everything. Working out how matters have to be listed, where to be listed, which matters should not be listed are really between the CJI and the Registry.

Is the time ripe for a return of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)?

In what form it can return is the issue. The judgment [Constitution Bench verdict of 2015] addressed certain concerns with the NJAC. It is my personal view that NJAC could have been tweaked to judicially correct the imbalance instead of quashing it wholesale. But now if the government wants to bring a law taking into concern the reservations expressed in the NJAC judgment, they will have to bring a fresh law. My emphasis is there should be better transparency in the dialogue between the judiciary and the government. I am not saying you must put it in the public domain, but there must be an understanding of how the appointment process should work. The balance has to weigh in favour of the judiciary.

Does the judiciary face a pushback when a majority government is in the saddle?

The problem is how to maintain the balance between the judiciary and the executive. Whenever majority governments have come, there has always been a little push against the judiciary. The role of the judiciary is to act as the check and balance. That is the constitutional scheme.

The pendency in the Supreme Court has crossed over 80,000. Judges are overworked. Is it time to have Regional Benches of the Supreme Court or final appellate courts?

There is reluctance within the Supreme Court to spread out the apex institution in different places which may affect the unitary character of this court.

One of the reasons for regional apex court Benches was access to justice. Now with the virtual court system in place, that has ceased to be a problem. Some out-of-the box thinking is necessary, but I do not think appellate courts are the solution to the problem.

Hurriyat chief’s outfit an unlawful association: Centre

Shah says Muslim League Jammu Kashmir is involved in anti-national activities in J&K and its members support terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday declared the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) an “unlawful association” under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for five years.

Masarat Alam has been in detention in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 20 years, with brief periods of release. Since 2019, he has been lodged in Delhi’s Tihar jail. He was appointed chief of the separatist group – Hurriyat Conference – after the death of chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X that “the organisation and its members are involved in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir supporting terrorist activities and inciting people to establish Islamic rule in J&K”.

Curbing operations: Police detaining separatist leader Masarat Alam at his residence in Srinagar in 2015. FILE PHOTO

The post said Prime Minister Narendra Modi government’s message was loud and clear that “anyone acting against the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of our nation will not be spared and face the full wrath of the law”.

The notification said the MLJK-MA was known for its anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda and its objectives were to get freedom of Jammu and Kashmir from India so as to realise the merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan and establish Islamic rule.

Unlawful activities

The Ministry said the outfit had been involved in raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organisations, for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting terrorist activities, and the sustained stone-throwing on security forces showed sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set-up of the country. The Ministry said there had been a number of inputs showing linkages of the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) with banned terrorist organisations and its members had been involved in supporting terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country.

It said the Union government was of the opinion that if there was no immediate curb or control of unlawful activities of the MLJK-MA, it would use the opportunity to “continue with the anti-national activities which are detrimental to the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of the country; continue advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India; and continue propagating anti-national sentiments among the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the intention to cause disaffection against India and disrupt public order”.

Rahul calls on wrestlers in Haryana

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the Wrestling Federation of India, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday paid a “surprise” visit to a prominent *akhara* in Haryana’s Bahadurgarh town and interacted with young wrestlers training under Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia.

Mr. Gandhi shared pictures of the visit on X, commenting that the wrestlers were simple, straightforward, innocent people from farming communities, and they should be allowed to serve the Tricolour. “There is only one question – if these sportspersons and daughters of India have to fight for their rights on the streets, instead of wrestling in the *akharas*, than who would encourage their children to choose this path?” he said.

Mr. Gandhi spent a couple of hours at the Lala Deewan Chand Modern Wrestling and Yoga Centre, which is run by former national wrestler and Mr. Punia’s coach, Virender Arya.

He enquired after the wrestlers’ daily routine and the rules of the game. Mr. Gandhi also engaged in a mock wrestling session with Mr. Punia.

Mr. Arya told *The Hindu,* “He also discussed the sequence of events leading to the wrestlers’ protest, and the recent events over the past few days. We told him that the wrestlers and the locals had been hurt and adversely impacted by the controversy. Mr. Gandhi also advocated the need for politicians to stay away from sports federations and let players take control of them.”

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone) Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Amruthahalli, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore-560092

No. SADH(YLK) /TENDER/02/2023-24 Date: 27.12.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK E-procurement Portal only)

(A) The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka), invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Persons/Agencies/Firms registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.**(B)**The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract **(Standard Tender Document -K/W-1,-K/W-2,-K/W-3&-K/W-4).(C)**Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** under login for Contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Estimate Cost in Lakhs	EMD (in Rupees)
1	Maintenance of Medians and Supply of water through tankers for Parks, Medians and circles in Yalahanka Zone.Stipulated Period of Completion: **7 Months**	**120.00**	**2,00,000/-**
2	Maintenance and engaging labours for shredders to Parks in Yalahanka Assembly Constituency. Stipulated Period of Completion: **8 Months**	**5.00**	**12,500/-**
3	Maintenance and engaging labours for shredders to Parks in Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. Stipulated Period of Completion: **8 Months**	**15.00**	**37,500/-**

Calender of events as follows:
1. Date of notification: **27-12-2023 2.**Tender can downloaded from: **30-12-2023 (3)** Pre bid Meeting: **08-01-2024** at **11.30 AM (4)** Tender Closing Date: **16-01-2024** at **4.30 PM (5)** Technical bid opening date : **18-01-2024** at **11.30 AM On wards. (6)** Financial bid opening date: **After Approval of Technical bids.**

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone)

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(Dept.of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt.of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Tamil Nadu - India
Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472104, 27472113, 27472423
Accredited by NAAC : ISO 9001:2015

Manpower Engagement Notification No.55 & 56/2023
NIEPMD(D) invites applicants for a walk-in interview/ selection process to engage staff on contract for NIEPMD(D)

Sl.No.	Name of the Position	Number	Consolidated Remuneration per month
1.	Lecturer (Special Education) (Consultant)	04	Rs.39,600/-
2.	Clinical Therapist (Consultant) (Female)	01	Rs.375/- per session (4 sessions per day)

Manpower Engagement Notification No.52, 53 & 54/2023
For contractual engagement of Consultants
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following contractual engagement at NIEPMD(D), CRC A & N Islands and CRC Shillong

Sl.No.	Name of the Position	Number	Consolidated Remuneration per month
1.	Professor (Occupational Therapy) (Consultant) for NIEPMD(D)	01	Rs.60,000/-
2.	Lecturer (Occupational Therapy) (Consultant) for NIEPMD(D)	01	Rs.39,600/-
3.	Assistant Professor (Special Education) (Consultant) for CRC A&N	01	Rs.75,000/-
4.	Lecturer (Occupational Therapy) (Consultant) for CRC A&N	01	Rs.60,000/-
5.	Prosthetist & Orthotist (Consultant) for CRC A&N	01	Rs.50,000/-
6.	Clinical Assistant (Speech Therapist) (Consultant) for CRC A&N	01	Rs.50,000/-
7.	Clerk/Typist (Consultant) for CRC A&N	01	Rs.25,000/-
8.	Rehabilitation Officer (Consultant) for CRC Shillong	01	Rs.50,000/-
9.	Clinical Assistant (Developmental Therapist) (Consultant) for CRC Shillong	01	Rs.50,000/-
10.	Accountant (Consultant) for CRC Shillong	01	Rs.45,000/-

For all other details, terms and conditions, please log on to the website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can submit their application through off line mode.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

SC committee to prepare SOP for adjournments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has constituted a committee of judges for preparing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for lawyers seeking adjournment of proceedings. The panel has invited suggestions of the Bar and other stakeholders on the issue.

The decision to form a panel came after the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocate on Record Association raised concern over circulars issued in December about the discontinuation of the practice of circulation of adjournment slips.

The Supreme Court Bar Association has requested its members to share their suggestions by January 2.

Manipur HC reserves verdict on review of ST status order

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As both the Manipur Government and the Centre stalled for time before the Manipur High Court, a Single Judge Bench has reserved its judgment, without any written submissions from either, on a petition to review the controversial March 27 order on the inclusion of Meiteis on the Scheduled Tribes list.

The initial order, authored by the erstwhile Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidharan, had directed the State government to send a proposal on inclusion of Meiteis on the ST list, to the Union government, which led to widespread protests from existing ST communities in the State.

This order, which the Supreme Court had also termed incorrect, is alleged to have been the immediate trigger for the ethnic conflict that began on May 3 between the dominant valley-based Meitei community and the Scheduled Tribe hills-based Kuki-Zo community.

According to case records, advocates representing the Manipur government submitted that despite repeated requests for instructions on filing the reply, authorities insisted on seeking more time to file a reply. Similarly, the Deputy Solicitor-General, representing the Centre in the matter, also sought more time to seek instructions on the subject of filing a reply till as late as December, even though the court had sought responses in June.

COAL INDIA LIMITED
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **htttps://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No- B-IV-H-ALMC-18/2021 Lr. No.- 54171 Bhubaneswar, the 18th Dec., 2023

Invitation For Bids

Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 50 / 2023-24

1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building works as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Work
3.	No. of work	:	3 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/- (each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Special / Super Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.28.12.2023 to 17:00 Hours of dt.11.01.2024.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 12.01.2024 at 11:30 AM
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Chief Engineer, Buildings (I/C), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

B-1499: OIPR-34002/11/0006/2324

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-2468/01/2023/ 40819 Dated :- 22.12.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	Repair and renovation of existing WTP, UGR & water works area at Kalunga I.E., Rourkela, Odisha.	₹ 3.29 Crores	04 (Four) Calendar Months

I. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022.	Bid ID.No.P&C/ EST/ E-168/ 2023-24	17.00 Hours of dt. 29.12.2023	17.00 Hours of dt. 12.01.2024

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.

CAD-3458: Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar OIPR-14003/11/0325/2324

INBRIEF

Amrit Bharat fare steeper for sleeper, second class coaches

The minimum ticket price to travel on Amrit Bharat Express trains for a destination within one km to 50 km is ₹35, exclusive of the reservation fee and other charges, the Railway Board has informed all zones. It has issued a circular on the fare structure of Amrit Bharat trains with the distance slabs and ticket prices for second-class and sleeper-class passengers. As the first Amrit Bharat train, which will be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on December 30, has only second-class and sleeper-class compartments, the Railway Ministry is yet to work out the fares for AC class. Concessional tickets and tickets against free complimentary passes that are not reimbursed shall not be admissible in the trains. PTI

Shimla district got 60,000 tourist vehicles in 10 days

More than 1.60 lakh vehicles crossed the Shoghi Barrier in Himachal Pradesh on the Shimla-Kalka National Highway in the past 10 days, of which an estimated 55,000-60,000 tourist vehicles entered Shimla district, the police said on Wednesday. Vehicles entering Shimla district from Chandigarh and Delhi pass through the Shoghi Barrier. The police have put in place a plan to regulate traffic with an eye on the large number of tourists who visit Shimla during the winter, Superintendent of Police (Shimla) Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said. PTI

'Only 23 crore COVID-19 booster doses provided'

Health Ministry asks States to step up testing due to a recent spike in JN.1 COVID cases, but says no need for additional booster shots; 97% of eligible citizens got first dose and 90% second dose

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A total of 220.67 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered across the country as on December 21 this year, show data released by the Health Ministry on Wednesday. However, only 22.88 crore precautionary or booster doses have been administered across the country among the eligible adult population.

The data also showed that over 97% of eligible citizens received the first dose of the vaccine, while over 90% received a second dose.

JN.1 cases spike

Despite the recent increase in number of of people infected with the JN.1 COVID variant, the Health Ministry has ruled out the need for any additional booster or precautionary doses to be administered to the general public.

It has, however, issued a recent alert to the States asking them to step up testing and surveillance in preparation for any further surge in cases.

On alert: A health worker in PPE suit taking swab samples of a man for COVID-19 test at a centre in Visakhapatnam. K.R. DEEPAK

A total of 109 JN.1 COVID variant cases have been reported from across the country till December 26. According to sources, there have been 36 cases reported from Gujarat, 34 from Karnataka, 14 from Goa, nine from Maharashtra, six from Kerala, four from Rajasthan, four from Tamil Nadu, and two from Telangana.

India launched its national COVID-19 vaccination programme on January 16, 2021, starting by vaccinating healthcare and frontline workers and senior citizens, subsequently expanding to reach all citizens aged 12 and above.

"With the administration of 200 crore COVID vaccine doses across the country on 17th July 2022, India achieved a significant milestone of administering over 100 crore doses of COVID vaccines to its eligible adult population in just nine months and another set of 100 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the next nine months, depicting sustainability," said the Ministry.

Under the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, three vaccines – Covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech International Limited, Covishield manufactured by Serum Institute of India and CorBEvax manufactured by Biological E. – have been made available.

Single-day rise of 529 virus cases across India: Ministry

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India recorded 529 fresh COVID-19 cases in a single day, while the country's active infection count stood at 4,093, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

Three new fatalities – two from Karnataka and one from Gujarat – were reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the Ministry.

The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but infections have again gone up after emergence of the new variant JN.1 and cold weather conditions.

The daily numbers were in lakhs at the peak of the pandemic, which began in early 2020 and has seen more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country.

UGC releases draft norms on recognition of colleges in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has published the draft guidelines on recognition of colleges. The higher education regulatory authority has sought comments from the public on the new guidelines titled the "UGC (Recognition of Colleges under Clause (f) of Section 2 of the UGC Act) Regulations, 2023".

The proposed guidelines will be applicable to colleges as defined under the UGC Act. The draft guidelines set conditions for UGC recognition of a college and states that it should be affiliated to a university in accordance with the provisions of UGC (Affiliation of Colleges by Universities) Regulations.

The college should comply with all the provisions of the UGC Act and Rules and offer programmes of study leading to the award of degrees or diplomas of not less than one academic year and for which the minimum qualification for admission is a Bachelor's degree.

For recognition, a college should furnish documents related to the year of establishment, affiliation certificate issued by the university and approval of the statutory/regulatory body with an undertaking that the college complies with all UGC provisions.

"All existing colleges shall have to obtain UGC recognition under Section 2(f) within three years from the date of notification of these regulations. The colleges established/affiliated after the notification of these regulations shall have to obtain UGC recognition under Section 2(f) within three years of their establishment/affiliation," the draft states.

Onus on universities

The responsibility of verification of the documents is with the universities. "If at any time, the information provided by the applicant college is found to be incorrect, the UGC may remove the name of the college from the list...," the draft further states.

The UGC may also decide on physical or virtual verification of a college or constitute teams for such verification at any stage of application. "Failing to rectify the deficiencies pointed out after such verification, the Commission may take necessary action for withdrawal of the recognition granted to the College under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956," it added.

Punjab CM claims Centre rejected State's tableau for 2024 Republic Day parade

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday alleged that the Union government has rejected the State's tableau for the 2024 Republic Day parade, and by doing so, the BJP-led dispensation has "demeaned and humiliated" the sacrifices made by Punjabis in the Freedom Struggle.

'Rubbing salt'

"This is not the first time as last year also the BJP-led Union government had done the same mischief and by rejecting the tableau this year too, the Centre has rubbed salt into wounds of the State," the Chief Minister said at sing a press conference here.

"Martyrdom and sacrifices are part of the glorious heritage of the State which was to be duly highlighted in the tableau of the State... By rejecting these nationalistic and progressive ideas of tableaux, the Union government has insulted the sacrifice made by great patriots and national leaders," he said.

Bhagwant Mann

Mr. Mann said that had these tableaux from the State been included in the Republic Day parade, then it would have enhanced the prestige of this annual event in which French President Emmanuel Macron will be the chief guest.

He said that every State highlights its legacy in this parade but for the past two years, the BJP government has "deliberately" kept Punjab out of the event.

The Chief Minister said that this year too, the State government had submitted three ideas: Punjab - the history of sacrifice and martyrdom, Mai Bhago - the First Lady warrior of Sikhism (women empowerment), and the rich heritage of Punjab.

He said that these ideas were duly submitted on time to the Centre for approval.

However, the Chief Minister said that the Union government had ignored the immense contribution of the State by rejecting these ideas.

Grow local, eat local: Bengal farmers hold a celebration of indigenous seeds

Hundreds of farmers from different districts brought native varieties of paddy, pulses and vegetables and exchanged traditional knowledge; NGOs planning a seed bank at grassroots level

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Farmers from several districts of West Bengal organised an indigenous seed festival and took a pledge to conserve different varieties of native seeds. The festival, a one-of-its-kind, was held at Contai in Purba Medinipur earlier this month.

Hundreds of farmers from various districts brought indigenous varieties of paddy, pulses and vegetables, and exchanged traditional knowledge among themselves.

The festival was organised by ActionAid, an NGO, along with Kajla Janakalyan Samiti and Purba Medinipur Kisan Swaraj Samity.

Image used for representation. FILE PHOTO

"This is a unique initiative where practising farmers exchanged their knowledge of indigenous seed varieties. ActionAid works in 22 States in India on the issue of climate resilience and sustainable farming. The seed festival was a step in that direction," said Ashok Nayak, programme manager, ActionAid.

Mr. Nayak said the initiative is part of the climate justice campaign launched by ActionAid across India. "Interface between farmers will help in building discourse between climate change and organic farming, and will help us understand and systematically expand the access and control over indigenous seeds," he added.

By organising the festival, the NGOs plan to build a seed bank in different parts of the State at the grassroots level.

Pradut Samanta, an organic farmer from Paschim Medinipur district, is working to revive traditional paddy. "This seed festival is a very pragmatic initiative because farmers are at a crossroads and have lost control over their input and made themselves vulnerable. They have also done lots of damage to their own soil, water as well as flora and fauna," Mr. Samanta said.

Sailen Chandi, a national award-winning farmer from Nadia, who is trying to revive traditional aromatic rice *Radha Tilak*, said: "Seeds have potential to provide safe food, recharge our biodiversity and stimulate our local economy."

UGC reissues notice that M.Phil. is not a degree course

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reiterated through a public notice on Tuesday that Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree courses are no longer recognised.

Citing fresh applications of certain universities inviting students for M.Phil. courses, UGC Secretary Manish R. Joshi said the UGC's Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree Regulations of 2022 had clearly stated that higher educational institutions shall not offer M.Phil. programmes.

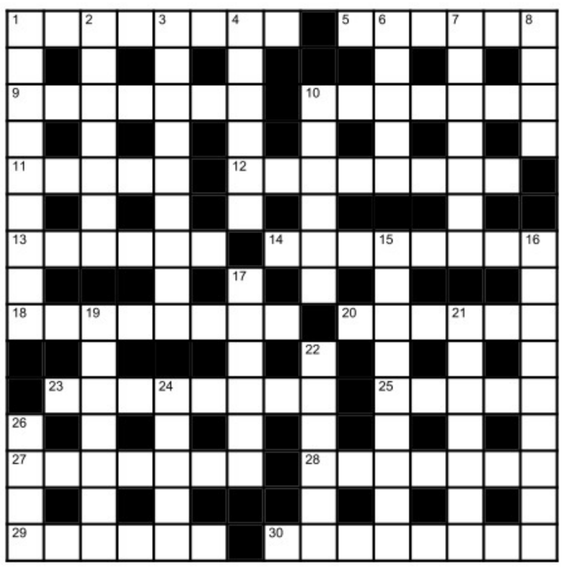
The notification was published in the Gazette on November 7, 2022. The UGC, however, pointed out that M.Phil. courses, which started prior to it will not be affected as the students can complete the courses.

TH CROSSWORD + 14057

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Revolutionary AI extended limits of aluminium plant (8)
5 Old city evacuated after old dictator's foolishness (6)
9 Drop a query, admitting: "This is less clear" (7)
10 Useless, collaring a husband in two different places to create understanding (7)
11 Dance of deer scratching backside (5)
12 Shiny unopened bag with trash (8)
13 Chicken Zafran side, no frills (6)
14 Lose footing after wearing sari and this is where you might land (8)
18 Power player (8)
20 Extremely playful leisure suit (6)
23 Frequently reject ethics (and face the complaint) (8)
25 Saw repellent characters engaged in plot to murder (5)
27 Rocky appearance of our cop — unkempt, holding a joint (7)
28 Bush hastily read mission's retrospective (7)
29 Young man gets embarrassed about flaw in tights (6)
30 One responsible for colonial deaths hiding in Indian tea territory (8)

Down

1 Satellite's appearance in space misinterpreted by hollow halfwit (9)
2 Upset mama, during angry outburst: "These rules got broke here!" (7)
3 With head covered, people quietly going for very personal monthly event (9)
4 Heard hotel took boat advance (6)
6 Hide potentially revealing arsenal (5)
7 So, just regularly swear, blowing top, to enjoy longer life (7)
8 A term in a financial statement with a zero that goes up and down (2-2)
10 Sweet cereal on the counter overwhelms the French (6)
15 Celebrate mass drinking lemon cocktail (9)
16 Ancient beast in ancient city destroyed seaport to the north (9)
17 Fungus in wolves making a comeback (3-3)
19 Gathered and arranged food, drinks, drugs (7)
21 Experiment with a time to seduce (7)
22 Upturned facial features describing a temper (6)
24 Grave-burying song, ultimately (5)
26 Judge given bird? Some cheek! (4)

SUDOKU

	9		1	5		7		8
3			8					
			4			1	5	
5			2			8		
1	2						3	6
		8			5			4
	7	3			8			
					7			2
6		4		2	1		8	

No.SS6021 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

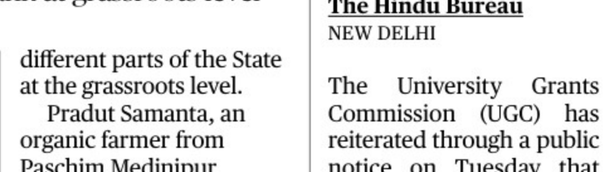
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	X	C	E	P	T		A	S	I	S	E	E	I	T
D		O		O			A		P		V		A
G	E	N	T	L	E		T	U	T	O	R	I	A	L
Y		T		A			S		O		C		L
	P	R	E	R	A	P	H	A	E	L	I	T	E	S
		O		I		E	G		S		O		T
S	I	L	K	S	C	R	E	E	N		T	R	I	O
H				E		F		R		U				R
E	T	C	H		M	O	T	O	R	R	A	L	L	Y
L		O		S		R		L		B		E		
F	O	L	L	O	W	M	Y	L	E	A	D	E	R	
L		O		C		A				N		T		P
I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T		P	I	C	I	N	E
F		E		E		C				T		D		R
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	D		L	Y	C	E	U	M

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	1	6	7	5	4	2	3
4	3	5	9	1	2	8	7	6
6	2	7	8	4	3	1	9	5
7	5	4	2	6	1	9	3	8
9	1	2	4	3	8	6	5	7
3	8	6	7	5	9	2	1	4
2	6	9	3	8	7	5	4	1
1	4	3	5	9	6	7	8	2
5	7	8	1	2	4	3	6	9



FAITH

Tondaradippodi Azhwar

Azhwars, the Vaishnava saints, rendered hymns in Tamil, encompassing the philosophical and theological ideas of the three fundamental doctrines of Vaishnavism. These three are *tattva* (ultimate reality), *hita* (the means to attain the same) and *purushartha* (supreme goal of life). Each of the Azhwars presented these in a manner readily comprehensible to the ordinary man through their hymns dedicated to the Supreme, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

Tondaradippodi Azhwar believed only in residing in Srirangam, and singing upon Lord Ranganatha. His prayer, "*Pachai mamalai pol meni*" continues to reverberate in temples and resonate with devotees over the centuries. Born in Tirumandangudi under the Kettai star in the Tamil month of Margazhi, Tondaradippodi Azhwar established a garden to offer herbs and flowers to the Lord every day. He took pride in being a *tolava tondan*. He rendered two prabhandams – Tiruppalliezhuchi and Tirumaalai. It is often said that those who do not know Tirumaalai, do not know *Tirumaal* (Narayanan). Tiruppalliezhuchi is rendered in all the Vaishnava temples every day. He reinforced the efficacy of nama sankirtan. Such is the power of the Lord's name that if uttered in hell, it turns into heaven!

WASHINGTON

Michigan court rejects attempt to bar Trump from 2024 ballot

AP

The Michigan Supreme Court rejected a bid to remove Donald Trump from the crucial swing State's 2024 ballot over his role in the 2021 U.S. Capitol riot. The decision contrasts with the recent ruling from the Colorado Supreme Court, which kicked Trump off the State's primary ballot over his role in the Capitol riot. AFP

SEOUL

S. Korea's Lee Sun-kyun, actor of Oscar-winner *Parasite*, found dead

AFP

South Korean actor Lee Sun-kyun, best known for his role in the Oscar-winning film *Parasite*, was found dead at 48 in Seoul on Wednesday. He was found inside a vehicle parked in the capital's mid-northern Seongbuk district. The actor had been under police investigation over his alleged use of marijuana and other drugs. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea kicks off key party meeting ahead of New Year

AFP

North Korea opened a year-end party meet attended by leader Kim Jong-un unveiling key policy decisions for 2024. Mr. Kim viewed 2023 as a year of of "great importance", and said Pyongyang's new strategic weapons, including its spy satellite, had "unswervingly put" the North "in the position of a military power". AFP

BEIJING

China sanctions U.S. research firm, 2 persons over reports on Xinjiang

AP

China banned U.S. research company Kharon, its director and human rights analyst, who have reported on claims of human rights abuses committed against Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups in Xinjiang. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the two individuals would be barred from traveling to China. AP

Six killed in Israeli operation in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

An Israeli operation in a Palestinian refugee camp in the north of the occupied West Bank left six persons dead and several others wounded early on Wednesday, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

According to the news agency Wafa, the six were killed by Israeli air strikes on the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarem, where Israeli soldiers were also deployed.

More than 300 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli forces and settlers since the Gaza war erupted, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

War on Hamas to grind on for months: Israel military chief

Israel pummels central Gaza by land, sea and air as dozens more Palestinians are killed in strikes; Death toll in the 11-week-old war reaches 21,110, while 55,243 people have been wounded

Reuters
CAIRO/GAZA/JERUSALEM

Israeli forces pounded central Gaza by land, sea and air on Wednesday and Palestinian authorities reported dozens more deaths in the 11-week-old conflict after Israel's military chief said the war on Hamas would grind on for months.

Reflecting Israeli resolve to wipe out Hamas despite growing international calls for a ceasefire, Israel's Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi said the fighting would last "many months" and there were no "magic solutions" or "shortcuts".

Brief pit-stop: Displaced Palestinians take shelter at a school in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip Wednesday. AFP

The Gaza Health Ministry said Israeli forces had killed 195 Palestinians and wounded 325 in the past 24 hours, bringing the recorded toll to 21,110 killed and 55,243 wounded in Israeli attacks in the coastal territory since October 7.

A telecommunications outage in much of the enclave hit efforts to reach Palestinian casualties overnight but was gradually coming back online at mid-morning.

In central Gaza's Al-Maghazi district, five Palestinians were killed in one air strike, medics said.

To the north in Gaza City, health officials said that the bodies of seven Palestinians killed in overnight attacks had arrived at Al Shifa Hospital.

Israeli casualties

Israel's military on Wednesday reported three more soldiers killed in action in Gaza, bringing total military losses in the enclave since ground operations began on October 20 to 166.

Russian strikes kill 6, knock out power in Ukraine city

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia fired almost 50 Shahed drones at targets in Ukraine and shelled a train station where more than 100 civilians were gathered to catch a train to Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday.

The barrages killed at least five persons and knocked out power in most of the southern city of Kherson.

Overnight, the Kremlin's forces launched an artillery and drone bombardment of the Kherson region just as some 140 civilians were waiting for a train at the region's capital city of the same name, according to Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko.

Close call: Some 140 civilians were waiting for a train at the railway station in Kherson when the attack took place. REUTERS

The shelling killed one policeman and injured two other police officers, as well as two civilians.

The attack on the Kherson region and its capital hit residential areas and a mall as well as striking the power grid, leaving around 70% of households in Kherson city without electricity during the winter cold.

In Odesa, another major city in southern Ukraine, the drone assault killed two people and wounded three, including a 17-year-old man.

Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 32 out of the 46 drones that Russia fired overnight.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi before being arrested by police officials. PTI

PTI leader re-arrested after being released from Pakistan jail

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's vice-chairman and close aide of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, was on Wednesday manhandled by the police as they re-arrested him outside a jail in Rawalpindi.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) released a video on X where Qureshi, who was granted bail in the cipher case by the Supreme Court last week, is seen being pushed and shoved by policemen after he was picked up right at the gate of the high-security Adiala Jail.

The footage of the incident showed the 67-year-old former Foreign Minister loudly protesting the "illegality" of the police's actions.

Qureshi was released from jail on bail after the Rawalpindi DC withdrew an order for detaining the former Foreign Minister for 15 days under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) and added that police had not yet provided an official comment on the incident.

On Friday, the top court granted bail to Khan and Qureshi in the cipher case and demanded to submit surety bonds worth (Pakistan) Rs 1 million each.

Indonesian students force Rohingya from camp

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

Hundreds of university students in Indonesia's westernmost province stormed a temporary shelter for Rohingya refugees on Wednesday, forcing them to leave in the latest rejection of the persecuted Myanmar minority.

More than 1,500 Rohingya refugees have arrived on the shores of Aceh province since mid-November in what the UN says is the biggest influx for eight years.

The students entered a government function hall in the capital Banda Aceh where 137 Rohingya refugees were staying.

The students demanded they be moved to a local immigration office so they could be deported.

Students were chanting "kick them out". The students were also seen kicking the Rohingyas' belongings.

The protesters were also involved in a scuffle with police who were guarding the frightened refugees but officers ultimately permitted their removal by the students.

Tusk's Polish govt. liquidates all public media for restructuring

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

Poland's new Culture Minister announced the liquidation of all public media, which have been seen as a mouthpiece of the previous populist-nationalist government, ahead of a restructuring.

The latest action is likely to aggravate the stand-off between the government and President Andrzej Duda, an ally of the previous administration.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk's pro-EU government took power earlier this month after eight years of rule by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party.

It justified last week's sacking of the management of public media as a bid to restore "impartiality", after they were accused of biased reporting, transmitting government propaganda and launching verbal attacks on the Opposition under the PiS.

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 45 / 2023-24
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.6901, dt.21.12.2023

1. No. of the work	:-	3 number Building Works.
2. Estimated cost	:-	Rs.125.93 Lakhs to Rs.892.33 Lakhs.
3. Class of Contractor	:-	"B", "A", & "Special" Class
4. Period of completion	:-	04 (Four) Calendar Months to 15 (Fifteen) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:-	From 11.00 Hours of 28.12.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 11.01.2024.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-	16.00 Hours of 11.01.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:-	11.30 Hours on 12.01.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:-	Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-1500: OIPR-34033/11/0063/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA E-mail : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
e-Procurement Notice for PMGSY works & Building works

1. Name of the Work : Construction of road works under PMGSY & Building Works - (04 Nos)
3. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.107.39 Lakhs to Rs.548.51 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 51/2023-24	30.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	08.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	09.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 52/2023-24	04.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	18.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	17.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	19.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in for Building works.
6. The details of works can be seen from the web site https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in for PMGSY Road works.
7. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
O-1999: OIPR-25182/11/0054/2324

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY

TENDER NOTICE (Online only)
TENDER NOTICE NO.17/2023-2024/SDO/DATED:26.12.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu **Schedule Tender (Two Cover System)** will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy, for **Construction of High Level Bridge at Km.17/8 of Kanur - Thiruppunavasal road in lieu of existing causeway across Pambar River** under **NABARD RIDF - XXIX/ 2023-24 (75 Bridges)** loan assistance scheme in respect of **Pudukkottai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division** upto **14.00 hours on 02.02.2024** through online only.

Details of work, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **03.01.2024** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

DIPR/6841/TENDER/2023
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY

Government of Tamil Nadu
Highways Department
Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.

Tender Notice No: 17/2023-24/CMDP/DO/ dated.27.12.2023 (Online only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Item Rate Tender** under **Two Cover System, through online only** for **Division – II** work of 'Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.14 in between Thirunindravur – Thiruvallur Railway stations, near Veppampattu Railway Stations (Balance Work)" will be received upto **02.02.2024**, **15.00 Hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.

Detailed scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from **04.01.2024** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H),
CMDP Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15.

DIPR/6840/Tender/2023

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS
Southern Regional office
Department of Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India
C.I.T Campus, IV Cross Road, Chennai-600113

Advertisement No.01 (GE)/SRO/023
Requirement of Graduate Engineer

1. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Southern Regional Office, Chennai a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India is the National Standards Body of India and is responsible for activities in the field of Standardization, Product and System Certification, Hallmarking, Laboratory Testing etc., in the country
2. BIS offers excellent opportunities to Indian nationals with proven academic credentials, professional achievements, good working knowledge of technology-based skills, strong communication and interpersonal skills and leadership qualities for engaging with BIS as Graduate Engineers (GE) on contract basis for our Kochi, Bengaluru & Hyderabad branch offices under its Southern regional office. The details of the advertisement are as follow

S.No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of position	Graduate Engineer
2	No. of position	5
3	Remuneration	A consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)
4	Location of Position	Bengaluru-1 (EEE) Kochi-1 (FCT) Hyderabad-2 (FCT, MCM) Hubli- 1 (FCT)
5	Education Qualifications	Master's Degree in relevant subject or BE/B. Tech in EEE/FCT/MCM (Please see detailed Advertisement at our Website- www.bis.gov .in)
6	Age limit	Should not be more than 35 years of age as on the last date of receipt of application.
7	Job duration	From date of joining up to 03.10.2024
8	Job description	(Please see detailed Advertisement at our website -**www.bis.gov.in**)

3. For detailed Advertisement and applying for the post, please visit BIS website **www.bis.gov.in**

Sd/-
DD (A & F)
sro @bis.gov.in

INBRIEF

RBI grants approval for IDFC-IDFC First Bank merger

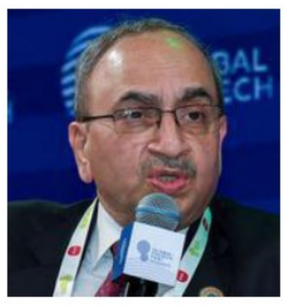
Reserve Bank of India has given its nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd. with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank. The boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC had approved the reverse merger in July. "IDFC Ltd. and IDFC Financial Holding Company received letters dated December 26 from RBI whereby RBI conveyed its 'no objection' to the composite scheme of amalgamation, subject to compliance with the terms specified therein," IDFC Ltd. said. PTI

Axis Bank moves NCLT on insolvency against Zee Learn

Private sector lender Axis Bank has filed a petition against Zee Learn before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking insolvency proceedings against the education services provider. The company has received a notice from the Mumbai bench of the NCLT in this regard, Zee Learn said in a regulatory filing. The company is compiling information to verify the facts claimed in the said petition filed by Axis Bank, Zee Learn added. PTI

Companies raise almost ₹9,000 crore in Dec. IPO rush

As many as 12 companies raised ₹8,931.69 crore through initial share sales this month, making it the best IPO month in two years. The previous best was December 2021, when 11 companies mopped up ₹9,534 crore through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). As per an analysis, 12 companies hit the market with their IPOs in December. This week, six companies got listed after IPOs and one will start trading on Thursday. Three firms made market debut on Tuesday and Wednesday. PTI



Dinesh Khara

'Banking sector showed phenomenal resilience'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara said over the last one year, the economy moved from strength to strength and the banking sector showed phenomenal resilience.

"Banks delivered very good performance in FY23 as also in first half of FY24, strengthening capital and other key ratios, gearing up to attain scale to finance multiple large value projects/capex and ambitious transition to clean/green energy and mobility, while also building huge digital capabilities and forward-looking risk metrics to efficiently serve a large, consumption-centric young population," he said while speaking at the tenth edition of the SBI Banking & Economic Conclave 2023.

"The 'twin balance sheet advantage, seems truly the new normal."

Emphasising that uncertainties continued to mar global economic and geopolitical landscape, the SBI Chairman said India had weathered these headwinds and emerged resilient and was all set to regain lost ground.

Indian banks' asset quality improved to decadal high: RBI

Banks' consolidated balance sheet grew 12.2% in FY23, highest in 9 years; about 45% reduction in GNPAs came from recoveries, upgradations,

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Indian scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) consistently improved in the second quarter of FY24, sliding to a fresh decadal low, as per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) report titled 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India'.

"The improvement in asset quality, measured by GNPA ratios, that began in 2018-19 continued during 2022-23," The RBI said.

"The GNPA ratio of SCBs fell to a decadal low of 3.9% at end-March 2023 and further to 3.2% at end-September 2023."

About 45% of the reduction in SCBs' GNPAs during 2022-23 came from recoveries and upgradations.

The consolidated balance sheet of SCBs (excluding Regional Rural Banks) grew by 12.2% in 2022-23, the highest in nine years. "The main driver of this growth on the asset side was bank credit, which recorded its fastest pace of expansion in more than a decade."

During 2022-23, the combined balance sheet of commercial banks expanded in double digits, driven by sustained credit growth. Higher lending rates and lower provisioning requirements helped improve the profitability of banks and shored up the capital positions.

The capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of SCBs was 16.8% at end-September 2023, with all bank groups meeting the regulatory minimum requirement and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio requirement.

The combined balance sheet of urban co-operative banks (UCBs) expanded by 2.3% in 2022-23, driven by loans and advances. Their capital buffers and profitability improved through 2022-23 and Q1:2023-24, the RBI said.

NBFCs expand

The consolidated balance sheet of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) expanded by 14.8% in 2022-23, led by doubl-digit credit growth.

"Profitability and asset quality of the sector also improved in 2022-23 and in H1:2023-24, even as the sector remained well-capitalised with Capital to Risk (Weighted) Asset Ratio (CRAR) higher than the regulatory requirement."

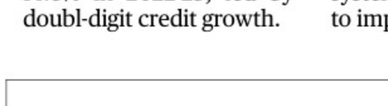
Looking ahead in 2024, the RBI said, in this environment, banks must guard against credit losses although higher capital buffers and provision coverage ratio (PCR) provide cushions.

"Qualitative metrics such as enhanced disclosures, strong code of conduct and clear governance structures would contribute towards financial stability," the RBI emphasised.

Stating the global environment remained highly uncertain, the central bank said the Indian banking system was well positioned to improve further.

On a strong footing

Higher lending rates, lower provisioning needs boosted banks' profitability and shored up capital positions during 2022-23, says RBI



- Combined balance sheet of UCBs expanded by 2.3% in 2022-23
- UCBs' capital buffers, profitability improved
- NBFCs also showed better profitability, asset quality in 2022-23
- Capital to Risk Asset Ratio higher than the norms for NBFCs

Arabian Sea merchant ship attacks raise textile export freight costs

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The deteriorating situation in the past week following Hamas supporting Houthi rebels' attacks on merchant ships in the Arabian Sea has raised freight rates by 40% with the possibility of this going up further, say India's textile traders.

Red sea is one of the busiest trade routes that connects Europe and Asia, but the recent attacks have forced merchants ships to take the circuitous route around Africa adding an extra 6,000 nautical miles and an additional 15 days to the transit time leading to steep increase in freight rates and insurance premiums, said Badresh Dodhia, chairman of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council.

COVID-19 price spikes

Most of India's of textile and clothing shipments pass through the Suez Canal, and while freight rates had stabilised in recent months after witnessing spikes during the COVID-19 years, fears are rising in several sectors of a similar situation now.

Mr. Dodhia urged the State and the Central Government to support the textiles and clothing exporters with higher duty drawbacks on schemes like the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies and Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products to better manage the current situation.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,038	0.98
US Dollar	83.35	-0.19
Brent oil	79.93	-1.65

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2843.35	-22.10
Adani Ports	1024.40	-4.35
Apollo Hosp	5687.45	54.30
Asian Paints	3404.45	21.10
Axis Bank	1106.35	12.10
Bajaj Auto	6709.65	245.10
Bajaj Finserv	1669.45	24.15
Bajaj Finance	7232.80	70.50
Bharti Airtel	1021.20	21.35
BPCL	454.70	3.10
Britannia Ind	5216.80	-19.15
Cipla	1239.75	-5.20
Coal India	365.60	-0.45
Divis Lab	3884.25	20.75
Dr Reddys Lab	5714.50	82.35
Eicher Motors	4120.00	79.60
Grasim Ind	2124.80	55.25
HCL Tech	1472.05	13.90
HDFC Bank	1703.30	20.85
HDFC Life	643.80	5.80
Hero MotoCorp	4064.30	-3.15
Hindalco	605.60	25.75
Hind Unilever	2608.30	23.55
ICICI Bank	1002.25	7.15
IndusInd Bank	1597.45	26.65
Infosys	1567.10	23.15
ITC	457.10	0.65
JSW Steel	875.90	23.60
Kotak Bank	1902.35	15.50
L&T	3544.00	53.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6287.20	27.50
M&M	1687.95	25.70
Maruti Suzuki	10288.50	17.85
NestleIndia	25720.45	158.40
NTPC	306.05	-3.55
ONGC	205.55	-1.80
PowerGrid Corp	234.05	0.70
Reliance Ind	2586.85	8.80
SBI Life	1421.35	26.05
State Bank	648.55	10.50
Sun Pharma	1252.45	4.95
TataConsumerProduct	1026.75	19.40
Tata Motors	740.90	21.35
Tata Steel	137.20	2.00
TCS	3811.20	15.65
Tech Mahindra	1280.15	-1.85
Titan	3689.25	32.55
UltraTech Cement	10436.10	417.45
UPL	583.20	-2.90
Wipro	470.95	0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.15	83.47
Euro	91.89	92.25
British Pound	105.81	106.22
Japanese Yen (100)	58.29	58.52
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	97.47	97.86
Singapore Dollar	62.88	63.14
Canadian Dollar	62.99	63.24
Malaysian Ringitt	17.95	18.04
Australian Dollar	56.86	57.08

Source:Indian Bank

Adani Green JV secures $300 mn from TotalEnergies

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

French energy giant TotalEnergies invested $300 million in a renewable energy joint venture with Adani Green Energy Ltd.

In a statement, AGEL said it completed "1,050 MW joint venture (JV) with TotalEnergies. As part of the JV, TotalEnergies invested $300 million in AGEL subsidiary, for acquiring 50% stake in the projects."

The JV houses the 1,050 MW portfolio comprising a mix of already operational, under construction (500 MW) and under development assets (250 MW) with a blend of both solar and wind projects in India.

India eyes $1 billion in banana exports in next five years

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the successfully export of a trial shipment of fresh bananas to the Netherlands through sea route, India is now aiming at increasing the exports of this fruit to $1 billion in the next five years, an official said.

Currently, most of the fruits are exported from India by air because of lower volumes and different ripening periods.

To increase the volumes, India is developing sea protocols for fresh fruits and vegetables like bananas, mangoes, pomegranates and jackfruit to promote their exports through ocean routes.

The protocol includes understanding voyage time, scientifically understanding the ripening of these commodities, harvesting at a particular time and training farmers.

Despite being the world's largest banana producer, India's global export share is just 1%, though the country accounts for 26.5% of the world's production.

Investments in P-Notes rise in Nov. to ₹1.31 lakh cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Investments through participatory notes in the Indian capital markets jumped to ₹1.31 lakh crore by November end, bouncing back from a decline in the previous month, owing to the robust performance of the domestic market.

Before registering a decline in October, investments through P-notes had been steadily rising since March, following stable domestic macroeconomic conditions against an uncertain global backdrop.

The latest data includes the value of participatory note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities.

Robust FPI debt inflows seen ahead of inclusion of bonds in global indices

K.R. Srivats
NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investment surge in the debt market can be expected in early 2024, ahead of the inclusion of Indian bonds in global indices in June, economists and analysts said.

When Indian bonds, essentially government securities (G-Secs), are included in a global index, the Indian bond market is sure to get a fillip as foreign funds would buy G-Secs in larger quantities.

The country can expect to see "front-loaded FPI inflows" in the debt segment in the first quarter of calendar 2024, they said.

This is also expected to give the country the cushion to comfortably finance the current account deficit, despite the risk of some widening in the second half of this fiscal, they added.

> When Indian bonds are included in a global index, the Indian bond market is sure to get a fillip as foreign funds would buy G-Secs in larger quantities

"Despite risks to the current account, financing requirements are unlikely to be a concern, given India's imminent index inclusion.

"While much of the inflows will likely come next year (as the index inclusion is scheduled for June), we expect some pick up in Q4 FY24 itself," wrote Rahul Bajoria, MD and Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics, Barclays, in a note.

JP Morgan announced 23 Indian bonds will be included in its Global EM bond index with a notional value of $330 billion from June. The share will rise up to 10% in 10 months.

In 2024, Indian sovereign bonds are not only expected to be included in JP Morgan's EM Bond Index but also in other global indices attracting additional inflows of $40-50 billion.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, told *The Hindu businessline* the inclusion of Indian bonds in JP Morgan bond indices will have investors take positions in Indian bonds three-six months in advance.

This will help them take advantage of price movements, he said. "Therefore, we can expect some additional buoyancy in FPI flows in the first two quarters of 2024 that will cushion the higher CAD."

"The CAD has come down in Q2, which is good news. This will tend to rise in the next two quarters as the trade deficit widens. But, this will not be a major concern for us," he added.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

SRI DURGA MALLESWARA SWAMY VARLA DEVASTHANAM
INDRAKEELADRI, VIJAYAWADA-520001, Toll Free No.18004259099
Sealed Tender, e-Tender & Public Auction Rc.No:C1/5673/2023, Dt.27-12-2023
Human Hair - TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd Call)

The right of licence for collection of Human Hair offered by the Devotees of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Vijayawada in Kesakhandana sala for the period of Two years from the date of handing over the license i.e. Two years period shall be given by way of Sealed tender, e-Tender & Public Auction on 09-01-2024 at 11:00 AM in the Mahamandapam 6th floor, Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Vijayawada as per G.O.Ms.No:426 Revenue (Endowments-I) Dept., dt.9-11-2015. The persons who participate in Public Auction, Sealed tender, e-tender for full details can be seen in temple web site i.e. http://ap.eprocurement.gov.in The remaining details shall be get from the office of the Executive Officer and through Mobile No's: 9640595555, 8639464333.

For Arjitha Sevas, Paroksha Sevas and Donations Visit https://kanakadurgamma.org

Karnati Rambabu, Trust Board Chairman — Sd/- K.S. Ramarao, Deputy Collector & Executive Officer

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಅಜಾದ್ ಭವನ, ಬೀಡಿ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಕೆರೆಯಂಗಳ ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂ:0821-297240 Email:dommandya@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಅಸಂಕಇ(3)/ಆಹಾರ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-04/2023-24
ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.12.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2023-24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : (1) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:-**MWD 265 MDS 2023 D:-18/07/2023.** (2) ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರ ಕಡತಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಅಸಂಕಇ(2)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-04/2020-21ರ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ(6)ರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:-05/12/2023.
2023-24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ಬಾಲಕ/ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ **Group- A, Group-B Group-C & Group-D** ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **(e-Procurement KPP Portal)**ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಇ - ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳು :- (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **ಅಸಂಕಇ(3)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-04/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-20/12/2023.** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) **246.80 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.** (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.12.2023.** (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **20.01.2024 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **03.01.2024 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ:- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.** (6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22.01.2024 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.** (7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ, ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ **(ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದವರಿಗೆ ಆನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು) ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.** (8) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : **3,70,000/-.** (9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ. ಇ.ಮೇಲ್: dommandya@gmail.com, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08232-297240.**

ಸಹಿ/-ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಿಸಿ-ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/393/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB 4:-Time Extension-:2023-24/4094
Dated : 27-12-2023

Time Extension for Tender Notification

The Calendar of Events for 4 works notified under this office tender notification No:-3487 Dated :-10-11-2023 (W.I. **6377, 6387, 6340 and 6188**) 04 Works calendar events have been extended as follows (a) Last Date for Clarification up to :**08-01-2024,** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-01-2024** (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date: **17-01-2024** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date: **18-01-2024.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/409/2023-24 P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

Government of Karnataka
(Public Works Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BIDAR
NO: EE/PWD//Dvn/Bdr/ JE-3/ 2023-24/ 2647
Date: 26.12.2023.

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Divn. Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_ INDENT 5799, PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT5999 & 5998 Amount for the work is Minmum Rs. 72.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs. 96.00. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e.procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Tenders must be submitted through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours up to dt: 30.12.2023 Tenders will be opened on dt: 01.01.2024 Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned

SD/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Bidar/201/KSMC&A/2023-24 PWD Division Bidar.

Government of Karnataka
Agricultural Marketing Department
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Hosanagara
Main Market Yard, Mavinakoppa, Hosanagara – 577418, Shivamogga District.
Tender Notice No.: APMC(H):Development:673/2023-24
Date: 21.12.2023

Brief Tender Notice

Tender is invited by Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Hosanagarathrough e-procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) asper KW-4 from eligible contractors registered in PWD for the works of constructing C.C. Road, C.C. box drain and Overhead Tank in sub market yard, Ripponpet, under NABARD RIDF-29 scheme. (I.No,-184, KW-4). Amount put to Tender: Rs. 2,08,82,625/-. EMD Amount: Rs. 3,13,250/-. Date for downloading tender Documents and sub mission: 27.12.2023 to 10.01.2024. Time Period: 175 days (excluding rainy season). Further details can be availed from the above office (Ph.No.: 08185-295043).

Sd/- Secretary (I/c), APMC, Hosanagara
Sd/-Administrative Officer, APMC, Hosanagara
DIPR/smg/No.34/12/ksmca/23-24/960

A BG-BGE

RUN MACHINE

Warner edges Steve Waugh, is Australia's second-highest scorer

FILE PHOTO

David Warner surpassed Steve Waugh to become the second-highest run-scorer for Australia during the second Test against Pakistan at MCG on Tuesday. In 371 international appearances, Warner has 18,515 runs, crossing Waugh's 18,496 runs (493 games). The list is helmed by Ricky Ponting (27,368 runs, 559).

RESPECT

I expect Nadal to play at his best in the Australian Open, says Djokovic

FILE PHOTO

Novak Djokovic warned he expects great rival Rafael Nadal is returning "to win a Grand Slam, not just to play" as the World No. 1 prepares to defend his Australian Open title next month. Nadal makes his comeback after a near year-long injury absence at the Australian Open warm-up event in Brisbane starting on Sunday.

GREAT COMEBACK

Panthers erase 13-point deficit to tie with Dabang

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dabang Delhi KC and defending champions Jaipur Pink Panthers played out a nail-biting 32-32 tie, after erasing a 13-point deficit, in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match in Chennai on Wednesday. In the second match of the day, Gujarat Giants warded off Tamil Thalaivas' challenge 33-30.

VALUE ADDITION

Olympic champion Katie Moon to be Mumbai Marathon ambassador

AFP

Two-time pole vault world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Katie Moon has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon to be held on Sunday. "While running the race of life, every step is an opportunity to inspire and make a difference," said the 32-year-old American.

Elgar's unbeaten ton helps South Africa nose ahead

Bedingham chips in with a half-century as the home team takes a lead of 11 runs with five wickets in hand at close of play; Rahul completes his second hundred in as many Tests at the venue

INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

The sun barely made an appearance on Wednesday. That didn't matter: two sparkling hundred lit up the second day of the first Test at the SuperSport Park.

If K.L. Rahul (101, 137b, 14x4, 4x6) helped India post a decent total – it looked more than that in the first half of the day – Dean Elgar (140 batting, 211b, 23x4) ensured South Africa had its nose in front.

The host was 256 for five at stumps, a lead of 11.

Earlier, the players were greeted by the sight of covers on the ground, but cricket got underway with a delay of just 25 minutes. India, which resumed at 208 for eight, needed Rahul to extend his stay at the challenging wicket. He did that in some style.

His partner Mohammed Siraj hung on for a while, a bit like what Pat Cummins has been doing of late. Their ninth-wicket stand was worth 47 when the seamer – his contribution was five runs – was caught behind off Gerald Coetzee.

Rahul now needed some help from his Karnataka teammate and debutant Prasidh Krishna to complete his hundred. He obliged, as the duo took a quick bye, which brought Rahul back on strike against Coetzee.

Off the last ball of the over, he reached his hundred swinging the young quick over mid-wicket for a six. This ground seems to Rahul what Lord's was to Dilip Vengsarkar; it is his second hundred in as many Tests.

Memorable outing: Elgar notched up a stroke-filled century in what could be his last Test on his home ground. PTI

And it ought to be one of the best knocks of his career. On a difficult pitch, in tough conditions, against menacing Kagiso Rabada, backed by three other pacers, and with the Indian innings in bad shape, he played brilliantly.

He defended solidly, picked the right balls to hit, and he hit it with admirable control. Two years ago, his century had come as the opener, and now he is the middle-order batter-wicketkeeper. He is versatile.

Rahul's flair and fluency was hardly a surprise. But Elgar's urgency to score and the frequency of fluent drives may have surprised quite a few.

The opener has announced that he would be retiring from international cricket at the end of the series. The way he batted told that there was some cricket still left in him. He should be particularly glad that he could finally score a Test hundred on his home ground.

He wasn't the only Proteas batter that put on a display of attractive strokeplay. Debutant David Bedingham (56, 87b, 7x4, 2x6) batted beautifully too. He has had to wait for 86 First Class matches before getting this opportunity.

His innings suggested he could have been considered earlier. He looked confident and was at ease, as he and Elgar put on 131 for the fourth wicket.

Siraj had provided an early breakthrough for India, making Aiden Markram edge a delivery that moved away late. Then Jasprit Bumrah had Tony de Zorzi, fresh from his success in the ODI series, caught at slip, and Keegan Peterson playing on. The joy proved short-lived for India.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Verreynne b Burger 17 *(37b, 4x4)*, Rohit Sharma c Burger b Rabada 5 *(14b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill c Verreynne b Burger 2 *(12b)*, Virat Kohli c Verreynne b Rabada 38 *(64b, 5x4)*, Shreyas Iyer b Rabada 31 *(50b, 3x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul b Burger 101 *(137b, 14x4, 4x6)*, R. Ashwin c (sub) Mulder b Rabada 8 *(11b, 2x4)*, Shardul Thakur c Elgar b Rabada 24 *(33b, 3x4)*, Jasprit Bumrah b Jansen 1 *(19b)*, Mohammed Siraj c Verreyne b Coetzee 5 *(22b)*, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 0 *(8b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-8, w-2, nb-1): 13; Total (in 67.4 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Rohit, 4.6 overs), 2-23 (Jaiswal, 9.4), 3-24 (Gill, 11.1), 4-92 (Shreyas, 26.6), 5-107 (Kohli, 30.6), 6-121 (Ashwin, 34.6), 7-164 (Shardul, 46.2), 8-191 (Bumrah, 54.3), 9-238 (Siraj, 65.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Rabada 20-4-59-5, Jansen 16-2-52-1, Burger 15.4-4-50-3, Coetzee 16-1-74-1.

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
Aiden Markram c Rahul b Siraj 5 *(17b, 1x4)*, Dean Elgar (batting) 140 *(211b, 23x4)*, Tony de Zorzi c Jaiswal b Bumrah 28 *(62b, 5x4)*, Keegan Petersen b Bumrah 2 *(7b)*, David Bedingham b Siraj 56 *(87b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Kyle Verreynne c Rahul b Prasidh 4 *(7b, 1x4)*, Marco Jansen (batting) 3 *(13b)*; Extras (lb-8, w-2, nb-8): 18; Total (for five wkts. in 66 overs): 256.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Markram, 3.5), 2-104 (de Zorzi, 28.6), 3-113 (Petersen, 30.2), 4-244 (Bedingham, 60.1), 5-249 (Verreynne, 61.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 16-3-48-2, Siraj 15-0-63-2, Shardul 12-2-57-0, Prasidh 15-2-61-1, Ashwin 8-3-19-0.

I try to do what the game demands of me: Rahul

Rahul. AP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

After scoring his second hundred in as many Tests on the challenging wicket of the SuperSport Park, K.L. Rahul said he quite enjoyed it. "I enjoyed playing here and the wicket keeps reminding you to stay focused," he said. "There is a fast outfield and runs could be scored."

His hundred two years ago here was made as an opener. "I have found that in the middle order you can't plan your innings that much," he said. "The situation in the game tells you how you need to play at that point of time. I try to do what the game demands of me."

Rahul said the team wasn't thinking too much about South Africa taking the lead already.

"We will focus on the first session on Thursday," he said. "We will try to bowl them as soon as we can and then will try to put some runs on the board."

Azharuddin is the batter I respected most: Fanie de Villiers

P.K. Ajith Kumar
CENTURION

Fanie de Villiers. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Fanie de Villiers has bowled to some of the world's greatest batters of all time - including Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara. Who earned the most respect from him?

"Mohammed Azharuddin," de Villers told *The Hindu* in an interview on an overcast morning at the SuperSport Park, during the second day of the first Test between South Africa and India.

"He was a wristy, stylish batter, but there were others too; I respected him because he could frustrate a bowler."

The former South African quick elaborated: "The most respect that you get for a player is the one that doesn't give you a chance to make plans against him. With that wristy flick, he could take a single and go to the other end; he was the best at it. With him, you can't say, I'm going to tie him down here for two or three balls and try variations."

de Villiers, who had a fine career for South Africa despite making his international debut only at 29, also has a lot of respect for a teammate of Azharuddin's - Manoj Prabhakar.

"Manoj Prabhakar helped me develop my off-cutters," he said. "We used to chat and he told me as bowlers we should do something different. He felt we could try a sort of slow spin ball. And we decided to try it at the nets and felt the variation would work. That was how it started: slow balls from a full run-up with quick-arm action. Then I got Tendulkar out. Prabhakar was also successful."

de Villiers, who took 85 wickets from 18 Tests and 95 wickets from 83 ODIs, believes India now has a group of pacers that are better than those who came before them, in the form of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

Looking back at his career, he said he was happy that he could play international cricket though he may have missed six or seven years of that because of the apartheid policy in South Africa. "That some of our men played in County cricket in England helped us; they shared their experience with us youngsters," he said. "And we had good infrastructure and academies."

He cherishes his match-winning effort against Australia in the Sydney Test - only his second - in 1993-94. He took six for 43 in the second innings to give South Africa a five-run victory. He also fondly recalls visiting Mother Teresa in Kolkata. "The two women I admired most were Mother Teresa and Princess Diana," he said. "And they died within a week of each other."

Humpy stays in contention; Bharath, Arjun trail leaders

WORLD RAPID CHESS

Rakesh Rao

Former champion K. Humpy stayed in contention of the women's World rapid chess championship by scoring 3.5 points from four rounds for a tally of 6.5 from eight rounds and shared the second spot at Samarkand (Uzbekistan) on Wednesday.

With three rounds to go, the 2019 champion kept the company of China's Zhao Mo and stayed within half-a-point of the surprise Russian leader Anastasia Bodnaruk, seeded 51.

On a roll

Eighth seed Humpy, in the 50th spot after her second-round loss on Tuesday, won five straight rounds including the one against sixth-round leader Mo Zhai to share the lead after seven rounds. She drew with China's Lei Tingjie to slip to joint second spot.

In the open category, where Magnus Carlsen, Vladislav Fedoseev and Yu Yangyi led at seven points, Bharath Subramanium, Arjun Erigaisi, and Vidit Gujarathi shared the fourth spot at 6.5 points. Seeded 137, Bharath defeated Sandipan Chanda, lost to Yu Yangyi, drew with R. Praggnanandhaa and defeated Italy's Sabino Burlello.

Strangely, Arjun played with all three second-day leaders. He drew Yu Yangyi and Carlsen but lost to Fedoseev before beating Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan.

Vidit, who began the day by losing to Carlsen, drew with Robert Hovhannisyan, defeated David Paravyan and split the point against Ivan Cheparinov.

Indians' rankings after Day Two Open:
Men (after nine rounds): 4-5. Bharath Subramaniyam, Arjun Erigaisi (6.5 each), 10. Vidit Gujarathi (6.5), 22. Nihal Sarin (6), 35. S.L. Narayanan (5.5), 38. R. Praggnanandhaa (5.5), 46. D. Gukesh (5.5), 51. Aditya Mittal (5.5), 73. Sandipan Chanda (5), 101-102. V. Pranav, Mitrabha Guha (4.5 each), 111. Raunak Sadhwani (4.5), 115. Surya Shekhar Ganguly (4.5), 121. M. Pranesh (4), 147. Karthik Venkataraman (3.5), 154. B. Adhiban (3.5), 167. Aravindh Chithambaram (3).
Women (after eight rounds): 2. K. Humpy (6.5), 10. N. Priyanka (6), 22. R. Vaishali (5), 30. Divya Deshmukh (5), 40. D. Harika (4.5), 44. M. Varshini Sahithi (4.5), 45. B. Savitha Shri (4.5), 53. Padmini Rout (4), 60. M. Varshini Sahithi (4), 73. Soumya Swaminathan (3.5), 80. Rakshitta Ravi (3.5), 91. V. Sarayu (3).

Cummins' twin strikes trigger batting collapse

Prized scalp: Cummins is all smiles as he celebrates with his teammates after dismissing Babar. AFP

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Australia's pace-bowling captain Pat Cummins struck twice in four balls to crush Pakistan's comeback attempt on the second day of the second Test on Wednesday.

Pakistan started strongly then collapsed to reach 194 for six at stumps in reply to Australia's first-innings total of 318 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Cummins claimed three for 37 and off-spinner Nathan Lyon took two for 48. Abdullah Shafique (62) and skipper Shan Masood (54) both made half-centuries, sharing a 90-run partnership for the second wicket.

The scores: Australia 318 in 96.5 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 63, Usman Khawaja 42, Mitchell Marsh 41, Jamal 3/64) vs Pakistan 194/6 in 55 overs (Abdullah Shafique 62, Shan Masood 54, Mohammad Rizwan batting 29, Cummins 3/37).

Diamantakos scores as Blasters down Bagan

ISL-10

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Dimitrios Diamantakos scored the only goal of the match to help Kerala Blasters beat host Mohun Bagan SG by a solitary goal in an ISL-10 fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium. The Greek striker's contribution ensured that Blasters cruised to its third consecutive win to tally 26 points from 12 matches and surpassed FC Goa to the top of the standings. However, the Tuskers have played three matches more than the Gaurs.

It was a devastating result for Mohun Bagan, which fell to its third consecutive loss to remain at 19 points from 10 matches. The Blasters took control of the action making some good raids in the Mohun Bagan box. Diamantakos, who is enjoying a nice form, dribbled past three Bagan players before making a spectacular finish and practically sealing the fate of the match in the ninth minute.

Purple patch: Diamantakos' strike put him on top of the scoring chart with seven goals in the season. DEBASISH BHADURI

This was the seventh goal for Diamantakos, who reached the top of the scoring charts with the effort.

Missing a number of its regulars owing to injury and suspension, Mohun Bagan continued to falter and found the going hard against a well organised opposition that did the job of defending well after finding an early lead.

The result:

Mohun Bagan SG 0 lost to Kerala Blasters 1 (Diamantakos 9).

INBRIEF

Bangladesh takes a 1-0 lead over New Zealand

Litton Das carried his bat for 42 to steer Bangladesh to a five-wicket win in the opening Twenty20 International on Wednesday as it rolled New Zealand out cheaply at McLean Park for the second time in four days.

The scores: New Zealand 134/9 in 20 overs (James Neesham 48, Shoriful 3/26) lost to Bangladesh 137/5 in 18.4 overs (Litton Das 42 n.o.).

Romero adds to Tottenham's injury woes

Tottenham Hotspur boss Ange Postecoglou revealed Wednesday he'd been dealt another injury setback when confirming Cristian Romero will miss the next four to five weeks with a hamstring strain. The 25-year-old Argentina centre-back's absence is all the more galling for Spurs as Romero only returned from a three-match suspension at the beginning of December. Romero suffered the injury during last weekend's 2-1 victory against Everton, with Postecoglou saying: "Not so great with Romero. He has got a hamstring strain."

Gakpo backs Liverpool forwards to fill in for Salah

Liverpool's Cody Gakpo believes his side has the forward firepower to cope without Mohamed Salah when the Egypt star departs for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations. The 16-goal winger is set to be away from Anfield on international duty for up to a month. "For every attacking player who didn't score for a few games, it's always nice to get back on the scoresheet and Darwin did it with a very good goal," said Gakpo.

Tanya Chaudhary clinches hammer gold

International Tanya Chaudhary won the hammer throw gold in the National inter-university women's athletics championships in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday.

The results: Hammer: Tanya Chaudhary (Chandigarh Uni) 60.66m.

Harmanpreet and Co. will have their task cut out against mighty Australia

A new-look Indian team, with four uncapped players in the ODI squad, will be keen on clinching its first bilateral series win against the visitor

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Lavanya L
MUMBAI

Onto the next one: India will be hoping to take the confidence of beating Australia in the one-off Test into the white-ball leg of the series. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Indian women's cricket team is in the middle of an unusually busy December. With three T20Is and a Test against England and another red ball fixture against Australia, all happening in quick succession, Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. have drifted away from the usual big gaps in fixtures one usually sees in the women's calendar.

Starting Thursday, red ball gives way to white ball as India takes on arch rival Australia in a three-match ODI series at the Wankhede Stadium here, with balance being the primary goal pencilled onto their vision board.

India has four uncapped players in the ODI squad in off spinners Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque and pacer Titas Sadhu.

Trade secrets

India head coach Amol Muzumdar chose not to reveal much in terms of how these bowlers will be used in India's white ball blueprint leading up to the World Cup, but with both mega events hosted by sides in the subcontinent (T20 WC in Bangladesh in 2024 and the ODI version in India in 2025), one wonders if the time is right for fearless experimentation.

"We had a long chat with the selectors about looking ahead to the World Cup and building towards it. We're going into this series with the bigger picture in mind," he said.

In the last 15 months, the Women in Blue have played only two ODI series - a three-match series against England which India clean swept 3-0 in 2022 and another three-match outing against Bangladesh which ended in a 1-1 tie. This series also saw Harmanpreet's infamous outburst aimed at the umpires of the game.

Australia, on the other hand, has played four three-match series this year alone, against Pakistan (Aus won 3-0), England (Eng won 2-1), Ireland (Aus won 2-0) and West Indies (Aus won 2-0). The side has never lost a bilateral series against India and has a 40:10 win record against its rival.

Aussie batter Beth Mooney made it clear that her team would not take India lightly despite a favourable head-to-head record.

"India is a huge threat in white-ball cricket, they've had a lot of success over the last couple of years and have some world class players in its lineup. That's a great challenge for this Australia team, to come out firing and hopefully nullify that as early as possible," she said.

The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque, Renuka Singh, Titas Sadhu, Pooja Vastrakar, Sneh Rana, Harleen Deol. **Australia:** Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Alana King, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Darcie Brown, Jess Jonassen, Megan Schutt, Georgia Wareham. *Match begins at 1:30pm*

Australia keen to learn about Indian conditions: Mooney

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

With an eye on the T20 World Cup and ODI World Cup scheduled in the subcontinent, Australia's Beth Mooney said the team is focusing on accumulating learnings as much as possible.

"We want to take as much out of this series and from our Bangladesh tour in April, and really learn as much as we can about the conditions.

"We've taken a little bit of insight from the Australian men's team that was here recently for the ODI World Cup, which has been really helpful," Mooney said ahead of the first ODI between India and Australia here on Thursday.

"The death bowling and batting are going to be really important and we'll have to make sure we nail them. Hopefully, we can fine-tune a few things in this series and in the next six months before the T20 World Cup and the ODI one the following year," she added.

Mayank to lead Karnataka in the opening two Ranji fixtures; Gowtham misses out

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Mayank Agarwal will lead the Karnataka team in the opening two fixtures of the Ranji Trophy, against Punjab and Gujarat.

All-rounder K. Gowtham, who featured in the preceding Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy white ball tournaments, has been left out. In the previous edition of the Ranji Trophy, Gowtham had finished as Karnataka's highest wicket-taker alongside pacer V. Vyshak (31 wickets).

On the 36-year-old Gowtham's exclusion, KSCA

Mayank Agarwal.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

men's selection committee chairman J. Abhiram stated that the time has come to give younger players a look in.

"Gowtham has done very well for Karnataka over the years, but all players eventually have to move on. We have to keep the future in mind," Abhiram said.

Gowtham has long been a mainstay in Karnataka's red-ball side. He has played 59 First Class matches, taking 224 wickets with his off-spin. A handy bat with a penchant for the big hits, Gowtham also has one century and five fifties.

The spin attack now consists of left-arm spinners Shubhang Hegde and Rohit Kumar, and offspinner K. Shashikumar. The trio is thin on experience, with only Shubhang (four caps) having played First Class cricket.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sujay Sateri, who scored runs in the C.K. Nayudu under-23 Trophy, has been included in place of B.R. Sharath. Sharath Srinivas is the other wicketkeeper in the squad. Batter K.L. Rahul and pacer Prasidh Krishna are away on international duty.

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), R. Samarth, Devdutt Padikkal, Nikin Jose (Vice-capt.), Manish Pandey, Shubhang Hegde, Sharath Srinivas, V. Vyshak, V. Koushik, Vidwath Kaverappa, K. Shashikumar, Sujay Sateri, D. Nischal, M. Venkatesh, Kishan Bedare, Rohit Kumar. **Coach:** P.V. Shashikanth. **Bowling coach:** Mansur Ali Khan. **Fielding coach:** Shabarish Mohan.

Chirag Duhan in doubles quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Chirag Duhan and Nicolas Tepmahc of France beat Jonas Keck and Aryan Jit Singh 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Monastir, Tunisia.

The results: $15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Ilia Simakin bt Chirag Duhan 6-1, 7-6(3); Vladyslav Orlov (Ukr) bt Navraj Singh Brar 6-1, 6-1. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Chirag Duhan & Nicolas Tepmahc (Fra) bt Jonas Keck (Ger) & Aryan Jit Singh (GBR) 6-4, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zeng Zixuan (Chn) & Milana Zhabrailova bt Tanisha Kashyap & Meshkatolzahra Safi (Iri) 6-3, 6-4; Selina Atay (Tur) & Anna Semenova bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi & Rinon Okuwaki (Jpn) 7-6(6), 6-1.

LIVE TELECAST

South Africa vs India: 1st Test, day 3, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 p.m.

India Women vs Australia Women: 1st ODI, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m. onwards (Friday)

Pakistan vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 4, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 a.m. (Friday)

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Friday)

WFI to be run by three-member ad-hoc panel

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The Indian Olympic Association on Wednesday announced a three-member ad-hoc committee, headed by its Executive Committee member Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, to run the Wrestling Federation of India following the newly-elected federation's suspension.

Two days ago, the Union Sports Ministry had asked the WFI to suspend its activities following some arbitrary decisions taken by its newly-elected president and requested the IOA to form a panel to run the WFI.

The IOA has named a three-member panel, also comprising Olympic gold medallist hockey player M.M. Somaya and former National champion shuttler Manjusha Kanwar, and tasked it "with overseeing and supervising WFI's operations, which include athlete selection, submitting entries for athletes to participate in international events, organising sports activities, handling bank accounts, managing the website, related responsibilities." Bajwa was a key member of the previous ad-hoc committee that ran the WFI after the Ministry had asked former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to step aside as some prominent wrestlers brought different allegations, including sexual harassment, against the latter.

Even as Sanjay Singh, a close associate of the Brij Bhushan, was elected the new president of the WFI, three top wrestlers - Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat - expressed their dissatisfaction. While Sakshi announced her retirement, Bajrang and Vinesh returned the awards conferred by the Government.

Against mounting pressure and the Ministry highlighting that the newly-elected body appeared to be in complete control of the former office-bearers in complete disregard to the Sports Code, Brij Bhushan announced his 'retirement' from the wrestling administration.

The IOA expressed similar concerns while announcing the new ad-hoc panel.

"The IOA has become aware that the recently appointed president and officials of the WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions. This not only highlights a governance gap within the federation but also signifies a noticeable departure from established norms," said an IOA order.

SNAP-SHOTS

New meet record for Hitaishi

Karnataka's V. Hitaishi created a new meet record in the 34th South Zone Aquatic Championship held on Wednesday.

The results:
New meet records:
Women: 200m breaststroke: V. Hitaishi (Kar), 2:52.69s (OMR: Thejaswini, Kar, 2:55.19s, 2006); **Boys: 100m butterfly:** Anish Aniruddha (Kar), 1:00.95s (OMR: Prasidha Krishna, Kar, 1:01.30s, 2011); **Girls: 50m freestyle:** Charita Phanindranath (Kar), 28.48s (OMR: Nina Venkatesh, Kar, 28.71s).

IOCL dominates

IOCL won all three team event categories in the 42nd PSPB inter-unit team badminton tournament held on Wednesday.

The results (finals):
Team events: Men: IOCL bt ONGC 3-2; **Women:** IOCL bt ONGC 2-1; **Veterans:** IOCL bt BPCL 2-0.

Smaran to helm Karnataka

R. Smaran will lead Karnataka in the C.K. Nayudu Trophy under-23 matches against Hyderabad and Uttar Pradesh next month.

The squad: R. Smaran (Captain), Aneeshwar Gautam (Vice-capt.), Vishal Onat, Rohan Patil, Macneil Noronha, K.V. Aneesh, Kruthik Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Paras Gurbax Arya, Manvanth Kumar, Yashovardhan Parantap, Rajvir Wadhwa, Monish Reddy, Akshan Rao, Lochan Gowda. **Coach:** Yere Goud, **Assistant coach:** Rohit Sabharwal.

Liverpool goes top as Nunez strikes; Hojlund caps Man United fightback

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool climbed to the top of the Premier League as Darwin Nunez ended his goal drought to inspire a 2-0 win against Burnley, while Rasmus Hojlund broke his own barren run to cap Manchester United's thrilling fightback to beat Aston Villa 3-2 on Tuesday.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool took an early lead through Nunez at Turf Moor and held on despite wasting a host of chances.

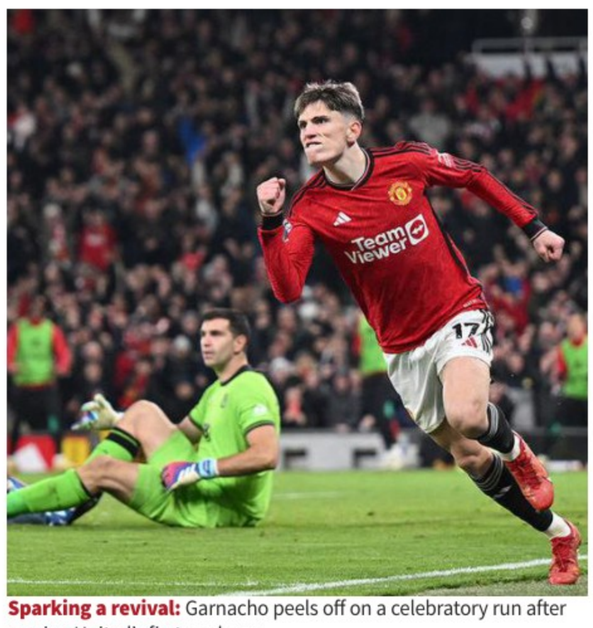
Nunez's eighth goal this season was his first for 12 games since he netted against Bournemouth in the League Cup on November 1.

Diogo Jota, back from a month's injury absence, wrapped up the victory late on to leave Liverpool two points above second placed Arsenal, which has a game in hand.

Arsenal can regain top spot with a victory at home to West Ham on Thursday.

After successive draws with Manchester United and Arsenal prior to Christmas, this was an essential victory for Liverpool's title ambitions.

At Old Trafford, United was in danger of another damaging defeat when



Sparking a revival: Garnacho peels off on a celebratory run after scoring United's first goal. AFP

goals from John McGinn and Leander Dendoncker put Villa in control by half-time at Old Trafford.

Erik ten Hag's team was booed off at the interval but it staged a much-needed revival, sparked by Alejandro Garnacho scoring its first goal in seven hours and 20 minutes.

Garnacho struck again to equalise before Hojlund finally scored his first Premier League goal, in his 15th appearance, with eight minutes left.

Hojlund's cathartic strike ended United's four-match winless run in all competitions and lifted it to sixth in the Premier League. Two games without a win have dented Villa's unexpected title challenge. Unai Emery's men remain third, three points behind Liverpool after their first defeat in 11 matches in all competitions.

The results: Manchester United 3 (Garnacho 59, 71, Hojlund 82) bt Aston Villa 2 (McGinn 21, Dendoncker 26). Bournemouth 3 (Kluivert 44, Solanke 62-pen, Sinisterra 90+3) bt Fulham 0. Burnley 0 lost to Liverpool 2 (Nunez 6, Jota 90). Sheffield United 2 (McBurnie 61, Ahmedhodzic 69) lost to Luton 3 (Doughty 17, Robinson 77-og, Ben Slimane 81-og).

Jaismine edges Simranjit for 60kg crown

NATL. BOXING

Sports Bureau

Jaismine Lamboria warded off a strong challenge from Olympian Simranjit Kaur to record a 4-3 win and win the 60kg crown in the National women's boxing championships in Greater Noida on Wednesday.

In a bout between two arch-rivals, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine moved around well and landed punches from a long range even as Simranjit fought spiritedly to hit the target.

Jaismine, who got a favourable verdict following a bout review, was declared the 'Best Boxer'.

The results (finals): 48kg: Minakshi (AIP) bt Gitika (Har) 5-0; **50kg:** Anamika (RSPB) bt Kalpana (Har) 5-0; **52kg:** Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) bt Shvinder Kaur Sidhu (AIP) 5-0; **54kg:** Shiksha (RSPB) bt Sonia (UP) 5-0; **57kg:** Sonia Lather (RSPB) bt Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) 4-3; **60kg:** Jaismine Lamboria (SSCB) bt Simranjit Kaur (Pun) 4-3; **63kg:** Prachi (Har) bt Sonu (AIP) 5-0; **66kg:** Arundhati Choudhary (SSCB) bt Ankushita Boro (Asm) 5-0; **70kg:** Lalita (Raj) bt Shalakha Singh Sansanwal (Del) 5-0; **75kg:** Pooja Rani (Har) bt Nandini (RSPB) 5-0; **81kg:** Saweety Boora (Har) bt Lalfakmawii Ralte (Miz) 5-0; **+81kg:** Nupur (RSPB) bt Ritika (Har) 5-0.

Team champion: RSPB.